



**KEN MILLER**  
**OKLAHOMA STATE TREASURER**

**For Immediate Release: February 11, 2011**

**Oklahoma 529 College Savings Plan, Oklahoma Girl Scouts  
launch State's annual Favorite Girl Scout Cookie vote**

*Treasurer Miller encourages public to vote for Oklahoma's Favorite Girl Scout Cookie and Troop*

**OKLAHOMA CITY** – As thousands of Girl Scouts across Oklahoma sharpen their business skills and prepare for the annual cookie sales drive, State Treasurer Ken Miller announced today a statewide election which promises to be a tight race and can only have one winner. Miller is asking all Oklahomans to vote for Oklahoma's favorite Girl Scout Cookie. Pairing the [Oklahoma 529 College Savings Plan](#) (OCSP) with the Girl Scouts of Western Oklahoma and the Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma councils, this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual "Vote for Oklahoma's Favorite Girl Scout Cookie" contest.

Treasurer Miller says the statewide Vote for Oklahoma's Favorite Cookie contest is designed to promote the various leadership skills gained through Girl Scout programs and encourage parents to learn more about saving for their child's college education when they go online to vote for their favorite cookie.

"Programs offered through our state's Girl Scout councils help young women develop important leadership and business skills that will take them into adulthood," said Miller, Chairman of the Oklahoma 529 College Savings Plan. "Those skills combined with a plan to save for future college expenses set the young women on a path for success throughout their lives."

Oklahoma's Girl Scouts are beginning direct cookie sales Friday, February 11, to family members, friends and neighbors. As one of only 12 pilot projects across the nation, this year's cookie sales drive is different than in years past. This year both Girl Scout councils will participate in the Super Six program, selling only the six all-time, top-selling cookies. Those include Thin Mints<sup>®</sup>, Samoas<sup>®</sup>, Tagalongs<sup>®</sup>, Trefoils<sup>®</sup>, Do-si-dos<sup>®</sup> and Lemon Chalet Cremes<sup>®</sup>.

Oklahomans have until March 27, 2011, to cast their vote on the Oklahoma 529 College Savings Plan website – [www.ok4saving.org](http://www.ok4saving.org). The winning cookie will be announced in early April during a ceremony at the State Capital and the Girl Scout who sells the most cookies in Oklahoma will win \$1,529 toward an Oklahoma College Savings Plan account.

"This partnership between our council and OCSP helps solidify the business skills we teach our scouts each day," said Karen Morgan, CEO of Girls Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma. "Performance, innovativeness and leadership reap rewards in the real world, just as it does during our annual sales drive. The \$1,529 college account to the top cookie salesperson provides our Scouts with extra incentive not only for this sales drive but also for their future college experience."

**(more)**

“Being the third year of this contest, it will be interesting to see if the last year’s winner, Thin Mints, can be beaten,” said Miller. “I encourage every Oklahoman to vote for their favorite cookie at [www.ok4saving.org](http://www.ok4saving.org). While they are casting their cookie vote, it also is easy to vote for your favorite Girl Scout troop. The troop with the most votes will receive \$529 cash to fund their special activities.”

Voting starts February 11 and will end March 27. Visit [www.ok4saving.org](http://www.ok4saving.org) to cast your vote today.

Miller also noted a new iPhone app available for download through the Oklahoma 529 College Savings Plan website. The app, the College Savings Planner, helps track your current college savings efforts as well as calculates the average amount of annual contributions needed to reach your goal.

Oklahoma taxpayers may deduct from their Oklahoma adjusted gross income up to \$10,000 in contributions to the Oklahoma College Savings Plan for individual taxpayers and up to \$20,000 for taxpayers filing a joint return with a five-year carryforward. Amounts deducted may be subject to recapture if a non-qualified withdrawal or rollover is taken (depending on the timing of such transactions), resulting in adverse Oklahoma income tax consequences. Read the Disclosure Booklet carefully.

All contributions and any earnings to an OCSP account are federal and Oklahoma income tax-deferred, and distributions are also federal and Oklahoma income tax-free when qualified withdrawals are made to fund an array of student expenses at most institutions of higher learning. Funds may be used at virtually any private or public university, college or career technology center nationwide, and the savings can be applied to tuition as well as other qualified expenses including fees, books, supplies and certain room and board costs.

For more information about the Oklahoma College Savings Plan or to open an account, visit the website at [www.ok4saving.org](http://www.ok4saving.org) or call 1-877-654-7284.

The Oklahoma College Savings Plan is a state-sponsored, tax-advantaged 529 college savings plan managed by TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing Inc. Introduced in April 2000, the Oklahoma College Savings Plan currently has more than \$406 million in total assets and more than 44,000 accounts, as of January 27, 2011.

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