



**SCOTT MEACHAM
OKLAHOMA STATE TREASURER**

For Immediate Release: January 14, 2009

**Oklahoma College Savings Plan, Oklahoma Girl Scouts Partner
Meacham Asks Public to Vote for Oklahoma's Favorite GS Cookie**

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK --- As thousands of Girl Scouts across Oklahoma begin their much-anticipated annual cookie sales drive, State Treasurer Scott Meacham is announcing a statewide election of sorts. Meacham is asking the public to vote for Oklahoma's favorite Girl Scout Cookie. The [Oklahoma College Savings Plan](#) (OCSP) is partnering with the Girl Scouts-Western Oklahoma and Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma Councils on the "Vote for Oklahoma's Favorite Girl Scout Cookie" contest.

On January 17, 2009, thousands of boxes of Thin Mints®, Tagalongs®, Samoas® and other enticing sweets arrive at the annual Girl Scouts Cookie Rally held in Oklahoma City. This is the day state residents can not only buy boxes of their favorite cookies, they can also cast their vote for Oklahoma's Favorite Girl Scout Cookie by visiting the Oklahoma College Savings Plan website at www.ok4saving.org.

Treasurer Meacham says the statewide [Vote for Oklahoma's Favorite Cookie](#) contest is designed to promote the Girls Scouts organization and encourage parents to learn more about saving for their child's college education when they go online to vote for their favorite cookie.

"Girl Scouts helps young women develop the character and skills to succeed in the real world," said State Treasurer Meacham, Chairman of the Oklahoma College Savings Plan. "The chances for success of these young women increase exponentially when combined with a plan to save for their college through the Oklahoma College Savings Plan."

Oklahomans have until March 31, 2009 to cast their vote on the Oklahoma College Savings Plan website. The winning cookie will be announced on early April in a ceremony at the State Capital and the Girl Scout who sells the most cookies in Oklahoma will win \$1,000 towards an Oklahoma College Savings Plan. The sales contest ends on March 31, 2009*.

"We really appreciate the Oklahoma College Savings Plan offering the \$1,000 OCSP account to the top cookie salesperson," said Cathy Stackpole, CEO for Girl Scouts-Western Oklahoma. "It's a terrific way to encourage these young girls to test their entrepreneurial, leadership and public speaking skills and it reminds them of a very important goal – planning for college."

“Everyone has their favorite Girl Scout Cookie and we think this will be a tough competition for Oklahoma as a state to choose its favorite,” said Meacham. “I encourage everyone to vote for their favorite cookie and also help their local Girl Scout troops who depend on the cookie sales to support their programs including attending summer camps, doing community service projects and a lot more that benefits our state.”

Voting starts January 17 and will end March 31. Visit www.ok4saving.org to cast your vote today.

Contributions made by April 15 by an Oklahoma resident to their OCSP Account are eligible for a 2008 Oklahoma income tax deduction. 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 (See Disclosure Book for details). Funds may be used at virtually any private or public college 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 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 over \$265 billion in total assets and more than 40,000 accounts, as of January 6, 2008.

** The cookie sales contest is open to registered Girl Scouts Western Oklahoma and Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma Councils. No purchase necessary. Void where prohibited. Go to www.ok4saving.org for official rules.*

The tax information contained in this material is not intended to be used, and cannot be used by any taxpayer, for the purpose of avoiding tax penalties that may be imposed on the taxpayer. It was written to support the promotion of the products and services offered by the Oklahoma College Savings Plan. Taxpayers should seek advice based on their own particular circumstances from an independent tax advisor.

Consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing in the Oklahoma College Savings Plan. Please call toll-free 1-877-654-7284 for a Disclosure Booklet containing this information. Read it carefully.

Before investing in a 529 plan, you should consider whether the state you or your designated beneficiary reside in or have taxable income in has a 529 plan that offers favorable state income tax or other benefits that are only available if you invest in that state's 529 plan.

The Oklahoma College Savings Plan (OCSP) is administered by the Oklahoma State Treasurer. TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc. (TFI) serves as Program Manager. TFI's affiliate, TIAA-CREF Individual & Institutional Services, LLC, is the distributor.

The State of Oklahoma, its agencies, TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc., Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America and its affiliates do not insure any account or guarantee its principal or investment return except for TIAA-CREF Life Insurance Company's guarantee to OCSP under the funding agreement for the Guaranteed Option. Account value will fluctuate based upon a number of factors, including general market conditions.

For more information contact:

Tim Allen, Treasurer's Office, (405) 522-4212

Kym Koch, Koch Communications, (405) 831-8668

For more information on Girl Scouts - Western Oklahoma contact:

Deborah Gooding, Girl Scouts - Western Oklahoma, Inc. (405) 528-3535 x 130

C43651