



SCOTT MEACHAM
OKLAHOMA STATE TREASURER

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Thin Mints® Announced as Oklahoma's Favorite Girl Scout Cookie
College Savings Account Awarded To Hard Working Girl Scout

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK --- The votes have been tallied and Oklahomans have chosen. State Treasurer Scott Meacham, at a press conference at the state capitol today, announced that Thin Mints finished first in the winner-take-all competition with 32.4 percent of the vote. The Samoa® was a close second with 30.7 percent. The only other cookie finishing in the double digits were the Tagalongs® with 13.9 percent. There will be no run-off election. Treasurer Meacham also awarded 12-year-old Alexis Koehler from Tulsa a \$1,000 Oklahoma College Savings Plan (OCSP) account. Alexis demonstrated excellent sales skills in selling 3,183 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies to family and friends. Ashley Haan of Bethany was the top salesperson in Western Oklahoma. The 13-year-old broke the record for the western half of the state by selling 2,806 boxes.

The OCSP partnered with the Girl Scouts- Western Oklahoma and Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma Councils on the "Vote for Oklahoma's Favorite Girl Scout Cookie" contest which conducted an online vote at the OCSP website www.ok4saving.org during the annual Girl Scout Cookie sales. As part of the promotion, the Girl Scout in the state who sold the most Girl Scout Cookies was awarded a \$1,000 OCSP account.

"Receiving the \$1,000 Oklahoma College Savings Plan account means so much to me," said Koehler, top cookie saleswoman in Oklahoma. "I really worked hard for this and I'm so excited to have won. I'm also excited that the \$1,000 will have a chance to grow before I go to college."

Treasurer Meacham said the statewide online contest, which ended March 31, was 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.

"Partnering with the Girl Scouts during their annual cookie sales drive was the perfect opportunity to build awareness about the importance of saving for college," said Meacham, Chairman of the Oklahoma College Savings Plan. "And today, a week before the April 15th tax deadline is the perfect opportunity to remind parents to open or contribute to their Oklahoma College Savings Plan."

The CEO's of Eastern and Western Oklahoma Girl Scouts expressed their appreciation for the Oklahoma College Savings Plan offering the \$1,000 OCSP account to the top cookie salesperson saying it was a terrific way to remind young people about the very important goal of planning for college.

“Everyone has their favorite Girl Scout Cookie, but in the end it was our local Girl Scout Troops and Oklahoma’s parents and grandparents who win as we build awareness about both of these great programs,” said Meacham.

Meacham says one of the easiest and most efficient ways to help save for the future costs of college tuition, including room and board, books and fees, is through the Oklahoma College Savings Plan. Individual Oklahoma taxpayers who open an account or contribute to their existing account may deduct from their Oklahoma adjusted gross income up to \$10,000 in contributions to the Oklahoma College Savings Plan and up to \$20,000 for taxpayers filing a joint return. Amounts deducted may later be subject to recapture if a non-qualified withdrawal or rollover is taken (depending on the timing of such transactions), which could result in adverse Oklahoma income tax consequences.

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 \$250 million in total assets and more than 40,000 accounts, as of March 27, 2009.

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 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.

Account value in the Investment Options is not guaranteed and will fluctuate based upon a number of factors, including general market conditions.

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, member of FINRA, is the distributor.

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