



2 1/2" Cookie Size

2,500 DOZEN HOMEMADE COOKIES NEEDED
SOUTHERN CORRECTIONAL KAIROS MINISTRY
Southern Correctional Institution, Troy, NC

The purpose of Kairos is to build strong Christian communities inside prison walls. It begins with a three-and-1/2-day short course in Christianity and continues with small share and prayer groups among residents of the institution. Cookies are distributed to every resident and staff member during the Kairos weekend.

To learn more about why you might want to bake cookies, turn this sheet over!

IMPORTANT SPECIFICATIONS

1. Bake ONLY Chocolate Chip cookies. Many have used the frozen cookie dough and find it is the right size. (Aldi's & Food Lion has a frozen package that makes 2 doz just the right size.)
2. DO NOT add fruit, nuts, decorations or coatings of ANY KIND to the cookies. Make only plain chocolate chip cookies.
3. Cookie Size: two to two-and-a-half (2 – 2 1/2) inches in diameter. Thin, crisp cookies break easily and cannot be used. Adhering to this size is essential in order for cookies to fit and be stacked into the bag without breakage.
4. Allow cookies to COOL completely before bagging. Warm cookies will stick together and cannot be used.
 - Bag ONE DOZEN PER BAG in a 1-quart size pressure-lock freezer bags (not zipper closure and not blue colored bags).
 - Pack cookies flat in bag (each bag will have 4 stacks of 3 cookies or 6 stacks of 2 cookies, depending on diameter of cookies). Cookies may be baked and bagged early and frozen, but are easily broken if the following do not occur:
 - Remember: Cool completely before bagging
 - Lay bags flat in freezer, one on top of the other.
 - Thawing cookies: A couple of days before they are needed lay each bag out flat (separately) to thaw. Unthawed cookies cannot be used.
5. Transporting cookies: Pack cookie bags in sturdy boxes such as shoe boxes or copy paper boxes so they will survive the trip to the prison without breaking.
6. Cookies are needed by Wednesday, (Date) August 6th, 2014. Please contact any Kairos Team member for cookie pick-up.

Thank you! Please let us know how many dozen cookies you will provide.

I will provide _____ dozen cookies.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

You might ask yourself why bake cookies?

Many of the women in prison have been abandoned by their families and friends. Often these cookies are the only indication to them that they have not become simply a number in the institution. As important as this is, the use of cookies during a Kairos weekend has a deeper significance.

When Kairos first began in the 70's a problem arose that seriously threatened the ministry. The women who attended the weekend activities were excused from their regular duties for this time and, in addition, they were enjoying the food being prepared by the Kairos kitchen team while the rest of the population had to be content with regular prison food. Some of the residents resented this to the point of making life so miserable for the candidates it was feared they would drop out of the weekend.

The Kairos leaders met and determined that a dozen cookies would be distributed to every resident, officer and those participating in the weekend. Not only has this eliminated the original problem, it has resulted in the women attending the weekend to be encouraged by the rest of the population to continue to participate so they will continue to receive cookies! Problem solved!

These cookies tell the residents that someone who doesn't know them still cares enough to give a part of their life – the time it takes to bake the cookies --- without wanting something in return. Such selflessness is often a unique experience for them. Most residents in our prison system are takers, not givers. This brief experience of sharing something of value freely – often with those they do not like – has a powerful effect.

Another time that the cookies are used during the Kairos weekend is on Saturday night. The main topic throughout the day is forgiveness --- forgiveness of oneself and of others. At the end of the day, the ladies are given a bag of one dozen, perfect and large cookies and they are asked to give those cookies to the person on the compound who they have the most difficulty with, hold the most unforgiveness for or the one who keeps them from fully being relaxed or peaceful. Sometimes this is a friend who they have been estranged from for some reason, sometimes it is a rival gang member, and sometimes it is an officer that they continually have problems with. No matter who the cookies are given to, this is an extremely difficult process, one which a few just are not brave enough to do. Some give the cookies to other residents, and the residents' response was something like, "I knew I would get those cookies." Sometimes one of the officers will receive dozens of cookies, much to their surprise.

No matter who they are given to, it represents a healing process, with God at the helm. We as humans have a hard time forgetting, but with God's help and God's command, we do have the capacity to forgive and have peace in our hearts. We are to be just like Jesus, forgiving unconditionally with no strings attached.