

Reese's peanut butter cookies

By Susie Iventosch



Photos Susie Iventosch

We had a hankering for peanut butter cookies the other day, and my family loves this recipe made with chunky peanut butter, dark chocolate chips, and maple syrup! It's so delicious and easy to make. What we did differently this time was to add about a cup of quartered mini-Reese's peanut butter cups to the batter. If you feel like adding one mini peanut buttercup on top of each cookie, you can also do that for a fun look and extra Reese's flavor. Just push the peanut butter cup into the top of each cookie after you press the dough balls down with that quintessential criss-cross fork pattern!

In writing up this recipe, I became curious about the invention of peanut butter cookies. So, I started snooping on the Internet and discovered that there is a National Peanut Butter Cookie Day, which falls on June 12 each year! The origin of peanuts is thought to be as long as 3,500 years ago, somewhere around

ico to Africa and Asia. It wasn't until the 1700s that they were first introduced to the United States, and not until the 1800s when they actually became a commercial crop here, valued for their taste and protein content.

Finally, in 1912, George Washington Carver, well-known agricultural scientist and inventor who promoted alternative crops to cotton as well as methods to prevent soil depletion, included a recipe for peanut butter cookies in his book "How to Grow the Peanut: And 105 Ways of Preparing it for

Human Consumption." I have not read the book, but it is still available on Amazon and probably in local libraries and bookstores. When I looked into the table of contents, it appears that he actually has three peanut butter cookie recipes among his 105 ways to eat peanuts! Other recipes include peanut bisque, peanut donuts, peanut omelets, peanut cake, peanut bread, peanut butter, and even peanut coffee! I think I will have to order a copy of this book, since we love peanuts just about any way at our house!

Reeses Peanut Butter Cookies

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup (4 oz.) unsalted butter room temperature
- 1/2 cup chunky peanut butter
- 3/4 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1 egg beaten
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 tablespoons pure maple syrup
- 1 3/4 cups unbleached all-purpose flour
- 3/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 5-6 oz. Reese's Minis Peanut Butter Cups unwrapped, cut into quarters (you want about 1 cup of the quartered Reese's)
- 1/2 cup dark chocolate chips

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 F. Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper.

In a large bowl, cream together butter and peanut butter with an electric mixer. Add brown sugar and beat until well integrated. Add egg and beat well. Stir in vanilla and maple syrup. Add flour and baking soda and beat until well-blended. Using a wooden spoon, stir in Reese's halves and dark chocolate chips by hand.

Roll dough into 20 evenly sized balls, approximately 1 1/2-inches in diameter. Place the balls onto the prepared baking sheets. Dip a fork into a bowl of granulated sugar and press down twice, once in each direction to make a crosshatch pattern. Bake for approximately 8-10 minutes, or until cookies are just beginning to brown. Remove from oven and cool enough to handle. Then dig in! Store extra cookies in an air-tight container or freeze them for later.

INFO Box

National Peanut Butter Cookie Day

<https://nationaltoday.com/national-peanut-butter-cookie-day/>



Susie can be reached at suziventosch@gmail.com. This recipe can be found on our website: www.lamorindaweekly.com If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at (925) 377-0977. Or visit <https://treksandbites.com>

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Understanding Early Decision and why you should stick to it

By Elizabeth LaScala

If you've been accepted by a college through its Early Decision (ED) plan you may consider yourself fortunate, as you should. You've applied to a school that's at or near the top of your target list because the likelihood of acceptance for ED applicants is higher than the overall rate for the college. You've been admitted before most of your fellow students even submitted applications. You can rest easier than your classmates and enjoy the rest of your senior year without the stress of admissions hanging over your head!

And yet, some students who have been accepted through an ED plan want to renege on their agreement later because events have transpired that cause them to regret their commitment. At that point they want to know if their ED agreement is binding and if they can disregard it without consequences. Consider the Early Decision Agreement You've Signed

You, your guidance counselor, and your parents signed an agreement that stipulates that you understand that you're committing to attend the institution if admitted. So, yes, it's binding, but not one that can subject you to civil liability. Consider the agreement that you're asked to sign. A majority of the colleges that offer ED options do so under the "Statement of Principles of Good Practice" of the National Association for College Admissions Counseling, which guides the institutional treatment of students.

When you submit an ED application, what you're agreeing to do is clear. While pursuing admission under an ED plan, students may apply to other institutions under an Early Action plan, but they may submit only one ED application. If an ED applicant is not admitted, but deferred to the Regular Decisions cycle, they're immediately released from the ED agreement and are free to accept any other colleges' offer of admission.

There are changes in a student's circumstances that will induce a college to release him or her from their ED commitment. Before we review these circumstances, you should know that when a student backs out of ED agreement without cause, it raises questions about the student's ethics that could impact decisions elsewhere. Some guidance counselors and colleges take steps to discourage renegeing on ED agreements. For example:

If an admissions office finds out that a student has applied to their institution and another via ED, they'll contact the other school. The student risks being denied consideration by both schools.

A cooperative ED plan is operated by five Ivy League schools: Brown, Penn, Columbia, Cornell, and Dartmouth. If an ED applicant is admitted to one of them, they must honor their agreement or be ineligible for admission to any of the others. Harvard, Yale, and Princeton share a similar plan.

Many guidance counselors place a hold on sending transcripts, letters of recommendation, and other admissions materials on behalf of students who have applied via ED until the decision is known. This step is taken because a guidance counselor's credibility with admissions officials is at stake.

A group of 30 liberal arts colleges share lists of students admitted to each of them via ED so that the others don't unwittingly admit them. They also share the names of students who were admitted via ED but were released from their commitments. Admissions officials sometimes discover from a guidance counselor that a student has submitted two or more ED applications. Counselors will warn students ahead of time of the impropriety of submitting multiple ED applications and, if the student persists, will contact the affected colleges, both of which will terminate consideration of the applicant.

Legitimate Reasons for Backing Out of an Early Decision

As noted above, there are a number of legitimate reasons why a college will release an applicant from an ED commitment without any negative repercussions. Below are a few common examples:

Necessary financial aid from the college didn't develop as originally planned.

A parent or other family member has died or fallen ill and enrollment at a college is no longer feasible or

desirable.

A family business or a parent's career has suffered a setback.

The student has suffered a serious health issue.

An ED agreement is a serious undertaking, often among the first formal commitments you'll make in your lifetime. You should make a good faith effort to stick to it. I can help you understand the commitment you're making. More importantly, you'll be part of a sound admissions strategy that we co-develop with you to help ensure the success of your college admissions campaign.



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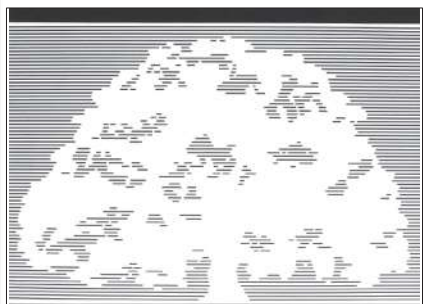
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