


ACCESS



Saving Strategies, and why you should care.

By now you've probably heard a million times how important it is to save your money. Not the most exciting advice, we'll grant you that, but it could have a bigger impact on your life than almost anything else. It means independence, a car, college, a vacation, an amazing laptop ... and best of all, security. Knowing you have money in the bank when you really need it is a great feeling, and one that will make you extremely proud of yourself.

With a few simple strategies, you'll find that saving money doesn't have to be painful and doesn't even require much sacrifice. But what it will give you in terms of security, independence and confidence is something that even money can't buy.



First, make a saving plan. Think of the little things you can do that will save you money – money that you can stash away in your savings account. A common rule of thumb is to save 10 percent of whatever you earn.

- When you get paid, immediately take out a percentage and separate it from the rest of your spending money.
- If possible, have your employer deposit part of your check directly into your savings account.
- When you're about to buy something, step back for 10 minutes and decide whether you really need or *want* the item. You'll be surprised how often you realize that what you think you want is only a mere impulse.
- When you go shopping, decide how much you have to spend before you leave the house – only take that amount with you.
- Always look for ways to save money on things you purchase. For example, buy clothes off season, or use the library or internet instead of buying books. And look for coupons – they're really fun to collect and they can help you save a lot!

Credit Unions Helping you make more of your money since 1844.

Over 150 years ago, a group of weavers in England decided that there had to be a better way to bank and give their money real power. So they came up with an ingenious plan: they sold shares to members to raise the money needed to buy goods at lower than retail prices. Then, they sold the goods to their members at a big savings. With this simple strategy, they became one of the first credit unions, and today, over 86 million people in the U.S. are active members of credit unions.

So what is it exactly that makes being a member of a credit union so much better than going to a bank?

Unlike a bank, your Credit Union is a not-for-profit organization – our sole purpose is to help you, our members, make more of your money. That means better rates on savings, lower rates on loans and lower rates on fees.

Your deposits are safe, too, insured up to \$250,000 by the NCUSIF (National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund), an arm of the NCUA (National Credit Union Administration), an independent agency of the federal government.

And unlike banks, we're governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. That means that for the folks running your credit union there's only one motive – to help you get real financial clout.



Your Credit Score and how to make it soar.



Your credit score is the number companies use to evaluate your credit-worthiness. Want to buy a car? Get a credit card? Rent an apartment? Get a loan? Your credit score is just about the first thing creditors will look at when making their decision. In fact, nowadays, a lot of potential employers will look at your credit score to see just how responsible you are.

The good news is, if you start now, you can create a fantastic credit profile with a really high score. Here's how:

Pay your bills on-time

This is the single most important habit you need to remember. Even if your parents co-signed a loan for you, if you pay your bill late your credit score will still be affected – and so will theirs!

Only apply for credit when necessary

Don't be tempted to apply for a credit card at every store you visit. This will quickly lower your credit score. It's much smarter – and even easier – to get a VISA® or Mastercard® from EECU that you can use almost anywhere. Remember, every time you apply for credit, your score drops a little. Be smart and go sloooooow.

Use your credit card only when you need it

DO NOT be tempted to use it to buy everything you want – that's a fast track to getting in way over your head and really messing up your credit score.

Getting that Perfect Job.



Right about now, you're probably dreaming about a lot of things you'd like to do with your life; have more independence, get a car, get some work experience, and a whole lot more. And this may mean it's time to start looking for a job. Well, you've come to the right place. We're here to help! Don't just daydream – take action. Here's how to start, and some tips to help you score that perfect job.

Create a plan

You've got to make a plan. Decide what kind of job you want. Full-time? Part-time? Over the summer? A job that's strictly for the money, or one that will lead into your chosen career? How much do you need to make? Decide what you want in a job and go get it.

The all-important resume

You want to stand out from all the other teens looking for a job. Go to jobstar.org to see some nice sample resumes. Make yours neat. NO MISTAKES. List your skills, other work experience, school

accomplishments, anything that makes an employer see just how special you are. Make your resume as professional as possible. And don't forget to make a version you can include in an email.

Market yourself

Talk to your friends, family, teachers, the people in the stores you go to... everybody! Let them know you're looking for a job. Next, look for job openings. There are a ton of resources online – that's a great place to start. When you find the right job, compose a short, professional, confident email and include your resume.

Follow-up ... and don't give up

It's not enough to simply drop off or email your resume. The most successful job applicants are the ones who are the most persistent – without getting annoying. Wait a week after applying then give the employer a call or send another email. Follow-ups can leave a great impression.

Congratulations to Alex Peterson for winning the Cash Crew drawing. Alex won a \$50 American Express® Gift Card.



Member Service Center
(559) 437-7700
1-800-538-EECU

Website
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