

# Gear'd Up

InTouch Credit Union News for Teens  
Fourth Quarter 2018 Newsletter

## Seasonal Spending? Better make a Budget!



End-of-the-year stress can be rough, between cramming for final exams and finding ways to make the most of the holiday season on a budget. InTouch may not be able to take your fourth period calculus exam for you, but we can offer some tips to help you get a head start on making and managing a holiday budget!

The first step to take is to identify how much you have to spend and what you know you'll be spending the rest of the year. You can do this electronically using a word processing program on a computer or your phone, or even go old school with a pencil and paper. If you have a checking account with us, you can use the Trends tool in Online Banking, too. There's no wrong way when making a financial plan!

With your list of expenses created, next comes the part where you figure out what are the absolute essentials and what is optional. For example, if you always go with friends to a haunted house in October, you'll want to prioritize that ahead of something that might be extra like going ice skating in December if the weather is good.

Finally, see if there are any items on your list you can reduce costs. If you always get your family members gifts for the holidays, consider making something creative or providing a service free of charge (e.g., cutting the yard or cleaning the house) this year. Some stores also offer used items for sale that are often just as good as new, and for a fraction of the retail asking price!

**No matter what you decide, making an end-of-the-year budget will help you make the most of these last few months of the year!**

***Working for you and your financial well-being.***

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