



MOUNTAIN AMERICA
CREDIT UNION

ADVENTURE Guide

VOL. 1 NO. 1

Parent
Tips

BUDGETING
BASICS

Earn some
CASH



Whooo's ready to go on an ADVENTURE?



Welcome to Mountain America's Adventure Guide.

This handy tool offers a variety of articles, games and activities to help you learn about money. Along the way, you'll get everything you need for your adventure—a backpack, hiking boots, a kayak and a lantern. Navigate through each checkpoint along the trail to learn, earn, save and spend money. By the end, you'll be a financial whiz!

Tips for parents

Helping kids learn about finances is one important way to teach them how to become successful adults. This guide is a great tool to start the conversation! Here are a few tips to keep in mind:

1. Teach them what things cost

Encourage your kids to look at prices on toys and food items at the store. Help them learn the value of comparing prices, waiting until an item is on sale and using a coupon for their purchases.

2. Teach them how to save

Explain the benefits of saving up to buy something you really want vs. buying something just to have it. Review the information in the saving section of this guide for more tips.

3. Teach them to create goals

Help your kids create a long-term plan for their money over the next week, month and year. Begin the conversation around why sharing their resources with others is beneficial, too!



ADVENTURE MAP

Complete the activities on each page to master the basics of **LEARNING, EARNING, SAVING AND SPENDING MONEY.** Mark them off on this page as you go along.



LEARNING

You are here!



Let's Learn About MONEY!

One of life's greatest adventures is learning how money works. Since many things in life cost money, it's an important topic to understand.



Are you ready to get started?

What is money?

Money is a means of exchange used to pay for things. We use our money to pay for goods (like groceries) and services (like haircuts at a salon).

How do I get money?

In order to have money to spend, you first must earn it. Money is usually earned in exchange for the work you do at a job. You can also make money by creating goods or services that people want to buy.

What do I do with money?

When you get paid, your money is usually deposited into your checking account. A checking account is a place where your money is held for withdrawals and deposits.

You can withdraw money as cash or use the money in your account to electronically pay for the things you need and want. Needs are the things we can't live without, such as a house or food, and wants are something you would like to have, such as a new toy or cool car.

Where do I put money?

The best place for your money is a credit union or bank. These financial institutions can help you safely manage deposits and make loans.



Match the word to the correct definition.

Learning how to manage money is a very important step in becoming an adult. A good first step is to get familiar with some important financial terms. See how many of these terms are familiar to you.

1. **Currency**
2. **Loan**
3. **Debt**
4. **Interest**
5. **Credit**
6. **Taxes**
7. **Investment**
8. **Bank/ credit union**
9. **Savings**
10. **Deposit**
11. **Withdrawal**

Money matching

- A. Borrowed money that must be paid back.
- B. Money set aside for future use, like a vacation or college.
- C. Buying something without paying for it right away.
- D. A place to safely store money.
- E. An amount of money placed or kept in a bank account.
- F. A type of money used, such as the U.S. dollar.
- G. Something you spend money on with the belief that it will earn you more money later.
- H. The action of taking money out of an account.
- I. Something owed or due that is paid back, usually in monthly payments.
- J. The cost of borrowing money or the benefit of lending money to someone else.
- K. Payments that go to the government for work such as fixing roads and improving schools.

Counting coins

Test your math skills by adding up these amounts.



1. \$ _____



2. \$ _____



3. \$ _____



4. \$ _____

1. \$1.01, 2. \$0.82, 3. \$0.41, 4. \$0.67



EARNING

You are here!



Budgeting Basics

Even if you're young, there are many ways you can earn money. Learning to manage your cash now will set you up for a strong financial future.

Earn some cash!

Looking for ideas to earn money? Think of activities you enjoy, then step out and start your own business, offering your services to family, friends and neighbors.

For kids

- ▶ Babysit or be a parent's helper
- ▶ Do yard work
- ▶ Complete extra chores
- ▶ Wash cars
- ▶ Care for pets: walking, sitting, washing, grooming, poop scooping, etc
- ▶ Sell used items
- ▶ Sell crafts like knitted beanies, jewelry, t-shirts, bows, etc
- ▶ Have a bake sale

For teens

- ▶ Paint houses, fences, etc
- ▶ Organize closets and pantries
- ▶ Do manicures/pedicures for friends
- ▶ Be a personal assistant—run errands, etc
- ▶ Create scrapbooks or digitize photos
- ▶ Prep and deliver meals
- ▶ Teach your talent: music, knitting, dance, art lessons, etc
- ▶ Tutor younger kids
- ▶ Deep clean trash and recycle bins
- ▶ House/pet sit



I spy

There are 6 hidden dollar bills in the picture below. Can you find them all?



What is a budget?

A budget lists all your income and expenses. It helps you manage your money. Here are three steps to create a budget:

1. **List all the ways you earn money.**
2. **List all your expenses.** During the last three months, what have you spent your money on? Create categories for those things.
3. **Determine if the two categories are equal.** If you have money left over at the end of the month, you can put it into savings. That will make your total income and expenses equal on your budget sheet.

Example:

Monthly income	
▶ Allowance	\$40
▶ Babysitting	\$50
▶ Extra chores	\$25
Total income:	\$115
Monthly expenses	
▶ Snacks	\$25
▶ Entertainment	\$40
▶ Giving	\$8
▶ Savings	\$40
Total expenses:	\$115



Test your budget skills!

Use the prices from the catalog to answer the questions below.



1. You plan to go to a movie next week, but you also want to buy some new video games. Using your entertainment budget, how many games can you buy?

- 1 2 3

2. Your best friend's birthday is next week, and you'd like to take them to their favorite burger place. Using your giving budget, what items would you be able to buy for them?

- Burger, shake and fries
 Burger and shake
 Burger and fries

3. You found your dream bike, and it costs \$100. Using your savings budget, how many months will you have to save to buy it?

- 2 3 4

1. 3; 2. Burger and fries; 3. 3

SAVING

You are here!



Save Like a Squirrel

Squirrels gather nuts in summer and hide them until they are needed in winter. Saving money is similar. You put your money somewhere safe until you need it. This is really helpful when you want to buy things you don't have enough money for or when something unexpected happens.



Samantha's first job

Samantha's dad always says, "To save money, you need money." Sometimes Samantha gets money as a present, but most of the time she has to work for it. She already does chores for her weekly \$5 allowance. Now she wants to make a little more money to buy a new kayak.

Samantha knows her neighbor, Mrs. Perez, hurt her foot and can't walk her dog, Bubbles. She asks her parents if they think Mrs. Perez will let her help take care of Bubbles as a job. They say that's a great idea and agree to talk to Mrs. Perez about it.

Now, Samantha walks Bubbles every day, and in return, Mrs. Perez pays Samantha \$10 a week. Samantha puts the \$10 from Mrs. Perez and the \$5 from her allowance in her savings account at the credit union. Once she's saved enough, she's going to buy that kayak!

It goes to show that if you have a goal and save your money, you can buy the things you want.



Feed the piggy



Piggy Bank is hungry and needs your help. With a friend or sibling, see who can feed him the most. He's kind of weird and likes to eat money!

How to play

1. Pick a sibling or friend who wants to play with you.
2. Grab a piggy bank or jar.
3. Set an amount—\$5, \$10, \$20, \$100, whatever seems in reach. (Alternate rule: Pick a finish date—one month, three months, a year.)
4. Look for ways to earn extra money—do chores, walk dogs, mow lawns.
5. Whoever saves the right amount first (or has the most money at the end) wins!

Good luck and have fun!

Tip: When the game is over, put the money you saved in a savings account.

Word scramble



Katie recently went to a branch to put her allowance in a youth account at a credit union. She's saving for a new soccer ball.

Unscramble the letters to find out what things she saw and learned about during her visit.

- EIOCRUDNITN _____
- IYPGNAKGB _____
- POLILLPO _____
- ALLSDOR _____
- NAOCTUC _____
- ISVAGNS _____
- ERLELT _____
- NOYEM _____

Answers: credit union, piggy bank, lollipop, dollars, account, savings, teller, money

SPENDING

You are here!



What are taxes?

Have you ever wondered why you pay \$2.10 for a burger that costs \$2.00? That extra 10 cents is a tax.

Sales tax is a fee that is added to the price of something you buy.

$$\text{price} + \text{tax} = \text{total cost}$$

Where does the money go?

Taxes help pay for things in your neighborhood like:

- Roads
- Schools
- Libraries
- Parks and playgrounds
- Police and fire protection

Buy it!

If you make \$25 every week—doing extra chores, yard work, babysitting, etc.—how long will it take you to save up for these items?

(See answers at the bottom of the page.)

Laser tag set
 1 week
 2 weeks
 3 weeks

Minecraft (PS4 or Xbox)
 1 week
 2 weeks
 3 weeks

Gaming system
 3 months
 6 months
 1 year

1 month of swim lessons
 1 week
 2 weeks
 3 weeks

Adopt a pet
 1 month
 2 months
 3 months

Bike
 1 month
 2 months
 3 months

Answers: Laser tag: 3 weeks
 Minecraft: 1 week
 Gaming system: 3 months
 Swim lessons: 2 weeks
 Pet: 2 months
 Bike: 1 month

Word scramble fun

S V M I O L B Z P M N W F F G
 K O U Z R R V U U T R S I Z N
 I L S Z U I Z I H H P O S H I
 S U E E P Z R B A R X R H M N
 E N U G L A P B I U W W I J E
 T T M E U O E N J Z E J N S D
 L E S Q N M K H J K G Y G T R
 H E A Q U L G X W J B D K G A
 G R K L E H C T O C S P O H G
 L I W R I G N I T A K S G C Y
 O N S S P B N O N Z O O I J C
 S G N M W M R I L G Y N E S S
 E A X Z Z C F A K U C X O L L
 X Z C U F H X P R I I L D D I
 S W I M M I N G P Y H V Y Y I

How many of these activities did you enjoy this summer?

Find them in the puzzle!

- HIKING
- MUSEUM
- AQUARIUM
- ZOO
- PICNIC
- HOPSCOTCH
- SPRINKLERS
- LIBRARY
- FISHING
- VOLUNTEERING
- GARDENING
- SWIMMING
- PUZZLES
- SKATING

Tips for free and cheap fun:

- Check with your library about reading programs.
- Pick up a kids' workshop kit from Home Depot.
- Volunteer in your community. Help a neighbor with yard work, childcare or dog walking.
- Zoom with friends to host a book club, dance party or game night.
- Visit trails, lakes and parks in your area.
- Research easy science experiments to do at home.
- Get outside for apple picking, corn mazes or playing in the leaves.
- Learn a new skill like origami, baking, coding, knitting, geocaching, speaking a new language, drawing or playing an instrument.

Try Banzai!

Keep your kids entertained with our free, online financial literacy platform. Banzai offers games, articles and other useful resources to help you learn everything from budgeting to building credit.

- ▶ Three course options available—Banzai Junior, Banzai Teen and Banzai Plus
- ▶ Continue the money management conversation with your kids
- ▶ A fun, interactive platform tailored to each learning level

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Sign up today!

