

Smart Ways to Save Money During the Holiday Season

**THE HOLIDAY
SPENDING AND
SAVING ISSUE**

This year, say no to the holiday shopping craziness that occurs from October through December. Here are a few tips to help you save smarter and spend less.

Make a plan and stick to it.

First, make a list of all anticipated expenses—gifts, decorations, travel, etc. Then trim it down to what's necessary. It's easier to say no to temptation when you have a clear picture of what you can afford.

Buy fewer gifts.

Do you buy for more than ten people? It could be time to reduce the size of the list. You don't have to remove names altogether. Try baking treats for some people instead of buying. You'll still be able to spread cheer without feeling like you left someone out.

Give your time.

If you can't afford to buy gifts, give some of your time as a present. Washing your sibling's laundry, walking your grandma's dog, washing your parent's car, and a free night of babysitting for the neighbor are just a few ways you can give your valuable time as a gift.

Start saving for next year... now!

It may be too late to save for 2021, but that doesn't mean you can't start thinking about next year. Wouldn't it be nice to have your holiday shopping for 2022 completed by August or September? Start with small deposits now. You'll be surprised how quickly it adds up.



BE A SMART ONLINE SHOPPER

The average teen will spend over \$2,000 this year and much of that will be online, especially preparing for the upcoming holiday season. Did you know the top online shopping websites for teens are Amazon, Shein, Nike, and PacSun?

If you plan to do most of your shopping online, you'll want to be cautious of things that lurk on the dark side of the internet, like viruses, hackers, and spammers.

Here are some safety tips you can use to avoid the online predators:

- ▶ Your username and password are yours. **Don't give this information to anyone**, other than your parents or guardian. It's that simple.
- ▶ Shop with reputable retailer's. Bookmark your favorite shopping site to quickly get to it. **Don't type the retailer's name into your browser** bar because you could make a typo that sends you to a fake site that looks like the real one.
- ▶ **Don't shop while on public WiFi.** Since online shopping requires submitting your name, address, and credit card number, someone sitting next to you at the coffee shop could be a hacker spying on your online activity.



Check site security before you buy. The URL in the browser bar should start with "https" rather than "http." Look for a lock icon in the site's address bar to verify they're using SSL encryption, which will mask the data you share like passwords and financial information.

Attitude of Gratitude

HOLIDAY SWEEPSTAKES

The holiday season is a great time to celebrate. This year, we're celebrating with an attitude of gratitude. Tell us about a person you're grateful to have in your life. Is it a sibling, a friend, a Teacher? Create a meme and post it to Instagram for your chance to win \$200. Give that person the recognition they deserve—and maybe share some of your winnings.

For the details and official rules, visit elementsofmoney.com. The sweepstakes start on Monday, November 1, 2021 and ends on December 15, 2021.



CURRENT TEEN SPENDING TRENDS

DO YOU EVER WONDER HOW OTHER TEENS SPEND THEIR MONEY? WHERE THEY SPEND IT? HERE ARE A FEW STATISTICS SO YOU CAN SEE HOW YOU STACK UP:

IU Credit Union

We started a credit union
and created a community.

Visit *elements* online at
<http://elementsofmoney.com/iucreditunion>

Your savings federally insured to at least \$250,000
and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government

NCUA

National Credit Union Administration, a U.S. Government Agency

iucu.org • 812-855-7823 • 888-855-MYCU

THE AVERAGE TEENAGER
SPENDS **\$2,150** PER YEAR

56% OF TEENS USE AMAZON
TO DO ONLINE SHOPPING

34% OF TEENS PURCHASE
NETFLIX FOR THEIR
PRIMARY SOURCE OF
ENTERTAINMENT

64% OF TEENS DEPEND
ON GIFTS FOR
"SPENDING" MONEY

Source: Piper Sandler