

MONEY-SAVING TIPS FOR TEENS



Advertisers spend billions of dollars a year trying to convince you to buy their products and services. As a Savvy Saver, however, you know that you don't need to spend a lot of money to have fun. Here are some ideas to get you started. Would any of these work for you?

Prioritize

1,2,3: Spend money only on things you really need or that would have great value to you. Often, the simplest saving strategy is to just say no!

The Walk and the Talk

🚲 A car could be the biggest purchase you might make as a teenager. In reality, many teenagers can get by without one. Think about the cost of insurance, gas, and maintenance, in addition to the actual car!

🚲 Bike, walk, use public transportation, and carpool to save on gas money.

📱 Those text messages add up! Keep track of how much you're using and how much you're being charged. Text less!

📱 Think about the way you use your cell phone. Can you cut back on your minutes, or get a better plan? Could you get by without a cell?

Entertain Me!

🎬 See a matinee movie or rent a DVD instead of seeing an evening show. If you do go to the theater, cut out the popcorn—movie snacks can cost *5 times* what they do in the store!

📖 Visit your library! Why would you buy movies, books or CDs when there is a whole collection you can use for free?

🎭 Fun can be free! Go to a park, hang with your friends, and look for free events going on in your school or neighborhood. Some performing arts places offer a work-study option too, where you can usher a show for free or work the front desk and get free dance classes.

Be Creative!

✂️ Whenever possible, make something yourself instead of buying it. When it comes to cards and gifts, this makes them more special anyway!

Food for Thought

🥤 Beware of the Vending Villain—vending machines and convenience stores are usually more expensive than supermarket groceries. Bring your snacks and meals from home.

🥤 Order tap water at restaurants to save \$2-\$3 each time! Also, use a reusable water bottle during the day—it saves money AND the planet!

🥤 Eating out adds up! Try having a potluck and cooking at home with your friends.

☕ Habit or Hunger? That \$3 cup of coffee can add up to hundreds of dollars a year. Before buying food or drinks, think: do I *really* need this?

Bank on It

🏦 Put your money in a bank or credit union—keeping it in a piggy bank won't earn you interest!

🏦 Sign up for savings and/or checking accounts with no monthly fees.

🏦 Avoid taking money out of ATMs that charge you fees!

🏦 Explore different savings accounts that have a higher return, like a Money Market Account or a Certificate of Deposit.

Shop Smart

\$ Buy clothing off-season for a better deal.

\$ Shop at garage sales and thrift stores for great bargains.

\$ Avoid impulse buying. Make a shopping list and stick with it.

\$ Comparison shop! Explore different options and prices, wait for sales, clip coupons... plan before you spend.

\$ Avoid malls and stores altogether—the less that you go, the less you will be tempted to spend money!