



# FAMILY FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Valuing People | Valuing Money

Managing in Tough Times

MAY 2011

## THIS MONTH'S TOPIC: ENJOYING THE SUMMER ON A BUDGET

**A**s the temperature starts to rise outside, many families start looking forward to spending more time with friends and family, vacationing, and other summer activities. Often, people are tempted to do and spend more money during the summer months.



It is important to realize that with proper planning, you can still enjoy all of the fun that summer has to offer without spending more than your budget will allow.

Clothing is one of the largest spending temptations. This year, as you go through your closets to review last year's wardrobe, you will likely be tempted by retailers' shopping deals. The start of the new season is a good time to clean out your closet, but instead of buying new, consider selling your unwanted items, as well as dressing up your wardrobe, at a consignment shop. Consignment stores often offer shopping discounts to their consignors. You may also think about organizing a clothing swap this is an especially good idea for gently worn children's clothing. You can also update last year's wardrobe by purchasing new accessories instead of a new outfit.

Written by: Jennifer Hunter

Source: America Saves, Avoiding the Summer Spending Temptations, <http://blog.americasaves.org/post/2010/06/25/Avoiding-the-Summer-Spending-Temptations.aspx>

## What can we do for *fun* this summer?

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As the school year winds down, you may also be planning activities for your children this summer. Spending time together as a family is important. However, if your budget does not allow a big vacation this summer, *America Saves* offers the following tips to answer the question: What can we do for fun this summer?

- Look for free festivals or outdoor concerts in your area. Check newspapers, bulletin boards, your local library and search engines (type “free events” and the name of your city).



- Don't spend your savings to see the summer blockbusters. Consider hitting cheaper matinees or borrowing recent flicks for free or minimal cost from the library.
- Network shows are on vacation for the summer, so take a break from the TV! Cancel cable for the summer and add the savings to your bank account.
- Be a tourist in your own city. Check out local museums and art galleries. For further savings, attend on discounted days or during free admission hours.

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## ***This summer, save money and go green.***

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Beach towels, flip flops, and lawn chairs line the aisles of local stores. It can only mean one thing – summer will soon be here! To many individuals summer means backyard barbecues and family vacations. However, summer fun can often be costly not only to our pocket books but also our environment. Due to rising prices, from the gas pump to the grocery store, more and more Kentuckians are finding ways to save money. This summer, save money and go green by following a few simple tips.

### *Hosting a backyard barbecue:*

- Skip the printed invitations. Call or email family and friends with details about the event.
- Encourage guests to walk, bike, or carpool to the party to save gas and reduce vehicle emissions.
- During the event, serve seasonal fruits and vegetables from your garden or the local farmers' market. Buying locally grown foods in season saves gas and money, and reduces fumes emitted and energy consumed during transportation of the produce.
- Use reusable plates, cups, and utensils. Paper and plastic party supplies can be expensive and increase the amount of waste in our landfills.

### *Planning a weekend getaway or week-long vacation:*

- Before you go, unplug any unnecessary appliances, such as TVs, DVD players, coffee pots, and microwaves. These items can still use energy in the off mode.
- Adjust your thermostat and water heater settings to conserve energy (check the manufacturer's instruction manual).
- While traveling, look for hotels that have an environmentally friendly certification or membership in a green industry association.
- Always turn off lights when you leave your hotel room.
- Use online maps. These maps are free and can be printed on the back side of used paper.
- Walk or use public transportation if possible to save gas and reduce vehicle emissions.
- Avoid using disposable bags while shopping. Instead, pack a canvas bag.
- While eating out, grab only the condiments, napkins, and utensils you need.

Written by: Ashley Osborne

For more information on saving money and going green visit the See Blue Go Green website at <http://www.ca.uky.edu/gogreen/>.



## Summer Camps *Getting the Most for Your Money*

It will soon be time to select your child's summer activities. With the cost of summer camps running into the hundreds to thousands of dollars, it is important for families to evaluate the benefits of a summer camp. Consider 4-H Camp when looking for an ACA accredited camp that provides youth an all-inclusive camping experience at a reasonable price.

Kentucky 4-H runs four camping locations across the state where campers participate in a week of activities including canoeing, nature, archery, crafts, recreation, sports, swimming, and lots more. If a week is too long for your child, many County Extension Offices offer day camps focused on a specific topic designed to increase skills, knowledge, confidence, and self-reliance at a very low cost. Encourage your child to contribute to a portion of the camping expense through age appropriate chores, applying saved birthday money, and/or applying for scholarships. For more information about your county's 4-H camping program, contact your local County 4-H Extension Agent.

Written by: Dr. Stephanie Blevins, 4-H Youth Development Specialist

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