Budgeting for the Holidays

• The ghost of holidays past
  • Debt
  • Stress

• The ghost of holidays present
  • Gifts
  • Charities
  • Event Planning/Food
  • Decorations
  • Travel
Plan Ahead

Avoid the Holiday Spending Hangover!

• Set aside money each month
• Open a separate account
• Stagger purchases throughout the year
• Shop online
• Use reward points
What happens when your shopping list and budget don’t match up?

Will you have a ghost of holidays future?
Reducing Cost: Gifts

- Create a detailed shopping list
- Create a budget
- Set a price limit for each gift
- Shop alone
- Participate in gift exchanges
- Give the gift of time
- Consider layaway
- Be creative

Stay within your budget
Reducing Cost: Cards, Donations, & Parties

• E-cards and newsletters
• Cards and decorations
• Out of season
• Timing of events
• Potlucks
Reducing Cost: Travel during the holidays

- Book as early as possible
- Reserve everything at the same time
  - Flight, hotel, and rental
- Be flexible
- Book off-season and try something new
- Remember the purpose of the trip
Eliminating stress during the holidays

• Take time for yourself each day
• Modify traditions
• Bigger is not always better
• Exercise regularly
• Eat properly
• Learn to say “no”

Moderation is key!
Credit and the holiday season

• Credit CARD Act of 2009
  • Transparent and easier to understand terms
• Availability of credit
  • Must be 21 or have a co-signer or show significant proof of income
• Greater notice before raising interest rates
• May begin to tack on annual fees

• Department credit cards

ALWAYS USE CREDIT WISELY!
Shopping Websites

• www.Overstock.com
• www.SmartBargains.com
• www.currentcodes.com
• www.dealcatcher.com

Stick to your list, don’t buy something just because it is on sale!
More Shopping Websites

• www.pricegrabber.com
• www.fatwallet.com
• www.dealshouter.com
• www.tgiblackfriday.com
The holidays unguided, are for the most part mere madness.

-Author Unknown
$ALT: A FREE financial tool for K-State Students at www.k-state.edu/salt
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