



For members of

GEORGIA *power*
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Simple Ways to Save This Holiday Season

It's easy to go overboard during the holidays, but there are some things you can do to cut back a little this year.

- **Develop a budget and stick to it.** Determine how much you want to spend on each person and stick to it.
- **Get creative with homemade gifts.** Everyone enjoys homemade treats, or a personalized photo album or music CD.
- **Part of a large family or group of friends?** Consider drawing names.
- **Shop online or by catalog.** Many online retailers offer free shipping, saving you time, gas and the hassle of finding a parking spot.
- **Open a holiday account and save all year long.** Georgia Power Federal Credit Union offers a holiday club account to help you put money away all year long. Visit our website for [more information](#).



Shopping with Credit Holiday Do's and Don'ts

The holiday shopping season has arrived, which means you'll probably be pulling out your credit card more than once. Whether you're shopping at the mall, online or by catalog, keep these tips in mind while paying with plastic.

- Do keep track of what you are spending.
- Do keep a close eye on the location of your card. Don't lend it to anyone.
- Don't disclose your account number over the phone unless you initiated the phone call and are dealing with a reputable company.
- Only carry credit cards you plan to use when you are out shopping. Better yet, if using cash, leave your credit cards at home to avoid over spending or having them lost or stolen.
- Save all of your receipts in one place and compare them to your credit card bill when it arrives.
- For any orders you place over the phone, by mail or online, keep copies of the transaction details.

Time for New Year's Resolutions

The new year is fast approaching and with it the promise of starting fresh in all areas of your life – including your finances. Capitalize on that spirit by making a list of New Year's Financial Resolutions to set yourself up for success in 2010. Here are some guidelines for creating your list with action plans for three popular resolutions.

Financial Resolution #1: Hone your retirement plan

- **Benefit from company match.** If your company offers a retirement plan that matches your contributions, make sure you contribute enough to get the maximum company match.
- **Create tax-free savings with a Roth IRA.** Money you invest in a Roth IRA can be withdrawn in retirement with zero tax bill. If your income is too high to qualify for a Roth, consider a Traditional IRA. Learn more about [IRAs](#).
- **Review what you will need.** Make sure you are saving enough to achieve the retirement you deserve. <1588> Consult with a financial advisor to be sure you stay on track.

Financial Resolution #2: Be prepared for a financial emergency

- **Open a savings account.** A savings account helps you avoid putting emergency expenses on your credit card – and having to pay the interest charges. Aim to save three to six months worth of expenses.
- **Automate your savings.** Authorize a direct monthly deposit into your emergency savings account to ensure you keep this financial resolution.

Financial Resolution #3: Reduce your debt

- **Develop a plan.** Reducing debt is never easy. To improve your chances of success you need to develop a strategy to keep you heading in the right direction. [Click here](#) to visit our interactive coaches to help you get started.
- **Pay less for credit.** Maximize your debt reduction efforts by minimizing your interest charges and other credit card fees. A credit card is a loan, so the lower your balance, the less interest you will pay. Be sure to pay your bills on time and stay under your credit limit to avoid needless fees.

Our Financial Services Representatives are always available to assist you in meeting your financial goals. Call us today to see how we can help you stay on course with your financial resolutions for 2010.

And the Winner is:

Congratulations to Deborah P. at Georgia Power, Sands Place location for winning last month's \$25.00 gift card.

We have hidden the last four digits of a member's Social Security number in this newsletter. If it's yours and you find it, call us at 770-677-0324 or e-mail us at marketing@gpfcu.org with your name and phone number.



Holiday Sentiment

The Board of Directors and staff at Georgia Power Federal Credit Union wish you and your family a safe and joyful holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Holiday Closings

Georgia Power Federal Credit Union branches will be closed Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25 in observance of the Holiday Season.

We will also be closed on New Year's Day – Friday, January 1.

Don't forget, you can access your accounts through online banking or audio response, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, even when we're closed. You also have access to many surcharge free ATMs. [Click here](#) to find a location near you.

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Access Your Accounts 24/7
www.georgiapowerfcu.org
800-321-4180

Apply for a Loan 24/7
www.georgiapowerfcu.org
877-258-8711

