

CREATIVE WAYS TO SAVE CONTEST

WINNING ENTRIES

1st Place: Bartering (trade haircut for babysitting; babysitting for oil change; oil change for piano lesson); shop interest rewards for savings and use the interest for groceries, then pay your bill on-time and on-line to save money on postage and interest; look for clearance items; use rebates and free coupons

2nd Place: Buy groceries at Suda Salvage in Harahan; Sew your own clothes; Breakfast for dinner: Scrambled eggs and toast are cheap and can be eaten at any meal; Use coffee filters twice before throwing them out; there are almost 20 digital TV channels you can now get with an antenna and converter box, so why pay for cable; wear flip-flops or sandals on all warm days, then you don't have to keep washing socks; Use vinegar to clean; Freeze your credit card in a huge Tupperware pitcher. Then you have plenty of time to think about buying something with it while you thaw it out.

3rd Place: When purchasing items online, I search for the best price from an upstanding company. When I am checking out, I check and see if there is a place to enter a discount/coupon code. If there is, I open another window and search for discounts/coupons for that store.

FOOD

- Buy meats in bulk and freeze for later.
- I make most of my own meals and limit the amount of eating out. Also I do not buy brand name groceries. I recycle grocery bags for trash liners.
- Most can goods and box foods taste the same no matter the company, so buy the cheapest generic.
- We use a "rewards" credit card to pay bills. We accumulate points and get cards for Target, Chili's, Applebee's, etc. We pay the balance each month so we have "free" meals.
- When eating out, don't get a combo; create your own. Order water to drink. Also, save the napkins, salt and pepper packets.

GASOLINE

- Go to gasbuddy.com. Put in your zip code and it shows you the cheapest places.
- Becoming a one car family saved BIG BUCKS.
- Change the fuel filter on your car (\$6). It saved me 2 mpg.
- Walk around campus instead of driving

UTILITIES

- Turn off lights in hallway, rooms, etc.
- Save a huge percentage on water bill by using a 1.5 GPM showerhead w/ shut off. Costs less than \$10 at some on-line sites.
- Use a power strip instead of plugging appliances and electronics into the outlet, then turn off the power strip when those items are not in use.

OTHER

- Shop at Walgreens. This store always has the best prices, if you look through the weekly sale paper and the monthly coupon book (available at the entrance). Also, I always find a bargain when I look for the little orange clearance tags around the store.
- Save on Ticketed events: online reseller StubHub.com often beats Ticketmaster
- Have money pulled directly out of checking & put into savings; even \$5 a month adds up.
- Audubon family membership is a wonderful deal.
- Set your printer setting to "Draft" and this will help you get a lot more copies for your money!
- Swap shop night at the seminary or church (no selling allowed). Trade items, food, even barter services like baby-sitting, car maintenance, etc.