



KENTUCKY
Education Savings Plan Trust

KESPT Connection

Fall 2016

Five Easy (and Fun) Ways to Save Money this Fall*

Fall has arrived and while you are probably not thinking too much about holiday shopping at the moment, now would still be an excellent time to start saving money in anticipation of your near-term expenses. The ideas below can help you get a financial leg up this fall season.

1. Buy Seasonal Produce - Each season provides an array of delicious and fresh foods. When fruits and vegetables are in season, they are available in abundance and that is a great time to stock up. For instance, fall is the time to enjoy fresh apples, pumpkins, and squash. Apples keep for a long time, especially in the fridge. Plus, you can make and freeze apple sauce to eat later. You can also mash squash and freeze it for future meals. Stocking up will give you side dish options later in the year without having to spend the money after prices go up.

2. Monitor Grocery Sales - Did you know that October is National Pizza Month? That means there will be sales and coupons you can use to your advantage to stock up on frozen pizza for those busy nights when you don't have time to cook.

3. Celebrate Columbus - You can also take advantage of the sales on Columbus Day Weekend. You're still going to be able to find some super cheap prices on summer clothes that you can put away for next summer. Plus, appliances, cars, patio furniture, outdoor toys, furniture, and electronics tend to be deeply discounted as part of Columbus Day sales. Finally, Columbus Day Weekend is a great time to get travel deals, so if you want to see extended family for the holidays but don't think you can afford it, consider taking a trip in October instead.

4. Skip the Expensive Fun - You don't need to visit expensive places to have a blast with your kids this fall. Try apple picking, visiting the pumpkin patch, or go on a family hike.

5. Make Halloween DIY - This year, skip the pricey costumes and make your own or just dig into the dress up box of items you already own. Chances are you have princess outfits and doctor coats and all sorts of dress up gear your kids can choose from. If that's not an option, you can swap costumes with friends and family. And when Halloween is over, hit the sales for next year.

No matter what the month, you can always find ways to save money. Keep that bank account high and your wallet full!

*Source: <http://parentingsquad.com/7-easy-and-fun-ways-to-save-money-in-october>



KESPT Tips

Keep your college savings on track by setting up an automatic contribution plan. And don't forget to ask friends and family to contribute as gifts.

Are your investments allocated appropriately for your beneficiary's age? You can rebalance up to twice per calendar year.

You can manage these activities by logging into your account at kysaves.com.

New FAFSA Filing Date

Beginning October 1, 2016, families and students can file the FAFSA (free application for federal student aid) for the 2017-2018 academic year, using income tax returns from 2015. Even if you don't think your student will qualify for federal aid, you should file the FAFSA anyway because most colleges require it before they will consider providing student aid. In addition, many scholarship deadlines come around in October and surprisingly, there are millions of dollars in scholarship funds that are never used because either no one applied or they didn't apply on time. Check out the College Board site for more information: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/grants-scholarships>.



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