

# Oregon State Credit Union difference



## Santa Dollars



Are you looking for a great stocking stuffer? How about one that is fun and gives back to the community at a time when giving is needed most? Try Santa Dollars. They're perfect for the holiday season.

A Santa Dollar is a brand new \$1 bill featuring the image of Santa Claus. When you purchase a Santa Dollar, you are also making a donation to CU4Kids, an organization that raises money for 170 Children's Miracle Network Hospitals® in Oregon and across the United States.

Each Santa Dollar costs \$2.50, with \$1.50 going to benefit Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. They are available from December 2 until December 24 and come in a holiday carrier and envelope.

Buy your Santa Dollars at any Oregon State Credit Union branch location. You can find the location of the branch nearest you at [oregonstatecu.com/branches-and-atms](http://oregonstatecu.com/branches-and-atms).



## Set up and save: Put more money in your pocket with automated savings

Saving money is about knowledge and discipline. You need to know where your money is coming from and where it is going, and discipline yourself to make and stick to a budget that includes an amount for saving.

If you're looking for a way to be more consistent about saving money, consider setting your savings to auto pilot. The theory goes: If you can't see it in your checking account, you'll never miss it.

As a member of Oregon State Credit Union, you have access to tools that can help you automate your savings and automate some payments, too, which can help you avoid late fees. Whether your goal is retirement, a dream vacation, college tuition or something else, consider the following tips for easy, automatic savings.

- 1. Set up direct deposit.** Works great for any regular deposit: paychecks, Social Security and more.
- 2. Pay yourself first.** Once you've set up direct deposit, set up automatic transfers to your savings account. This moves a pre-set amount of funds into savings before you even know you have it.

- 3. Automate your payments.** Whether it is your mortgage, your car payment or any monthly bill with a fixed amount due, automatic payments could spare you from late fees. Enroll in online banking and set up your automatic payments today.

- 4. Automate minimum credit card payments.** You can, and should, make additional payments to pay off your cards more rapidly, but automating minimum payments ensures you won't pay late fees.



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If you need more information on how to save for the future, there are modules in our Education Center that address saving money and building emergency savings. You can view those lessons at <https://oregonstatecu.everfi-next.net/welcome/oregonstatecu-member>.



## Dip your chip card for better protection



By now, most – if not all – of the credit and debit cards in your wallet should be enabled with an EMV chip. Many cards issued in the U.S. include BOTH the EMV chip and the older magnetic strip. In theory, that's a convenience; if a store doesn't allow you to insert your chip card, you can still swipe your magnetic strip. In reality, you may want to pause before swiping a card that has a chip in it.

Chip-enabled cards are far more secure than a magnetic strip. Unlike magnetic strips, an EMV chip creates a one-time transaction code that cannot be used again. If a hacker steals the chip information during a sales transaction, the transaction number created during that sale would not be usable again. Attempts to use the data would be denied.

Since the move to chip-enabled cards began in 2015, criminals have stepped up their identity theft activities. Most of these are new account fraud where the

hacker opens a credit card account using the victim's stolen personal information. You can help protect your information at the cash register by following these tips:

- **Don't swipe a card if it has a chip.**

The magnetic strip on the back of debit and credit cards stores the cardholder's name, card number, expiration date and more. In contrast, the chip encrypts this payment information. In the event of a breach, whoever has access to the data on the magnetic strip can make online purchases or even create a fake card. So if you have the choice, insert your chip; don't swipe.

- **Consider another form of payment.**

If a merchant is unable to process payments using chip cards, consider using cash or a credit card. Using a credit card instead of a debit card will prevent your account from being drained if the merchant is breached and data or information is compromised.

- **Use the debit card like a credit card.**

When using a debit card at a cash register, ask the merchant to process

the transaction as a credit and sign for the purchase rather than entering the personal identification number (PIN). This reduces the chances a hacker will steal the PIN and do more damage by creating a copy of the card and withdrawing money at an ATM.

- **Routinely check your statements.**

Review your statements every month for unauthorized charges. Pay special attention to smaller charges. Criminals need to steal only a small amount of money if they have information on thousands of people. Some thieves steal a small amount and, if the cardholder does not notice, steal a higher amount later.

- **Remember that EMV technology only helps protect against in-person fraud.**

It does not protect you during card-not-present transactions, like online purchases or purchases made over the phone. Be sure to check your credit card statements and monitor your credit reports periodically to check for unauthorized activity.

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Free Checking today

Learn more at

[oregonstatecu.com/checking-accounts](https://oregonstatecu.com/checking-accounts)

## Stop by

There's an Oregon State Credit Union branch in your neighborhood, offering:

- Convenient location
- Local decisions
- Personal service
- Visa® credit and debit cards
- Savings accounts
- Certificates of deposit
- Money Market accounts
- IRAs
- Auto loans
- Home loans
- Signature loans
- Free checking accounts
- Home equity lines of credit
- Business loans and lines of credit
- And more

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