

Using SCRIP to Meet Your Fundraising Obligation

Wisdom from a Current School Parent

Have you ever wondered how you can meet your fundraising goal by using the SCRIP Program? All it takes is a little planning, and I assure you, you will meet your goal **and** most likely make money towards your following year's tuition. Let me share with you how our family takes advantage of the SCRIP program to meet our fundraising obligation.

Our family always begins buying our gift cards in early spring. As soon as the school announces that we can begin accumulating credit for the following school year, we begin. Here are a few ideas that have helped us not only meet our goal each year but also exceed our goal so that we earn tuition credit.

1. **Grocery Stores.** Everyone buys groceries! Whether its Meijer, Jewel, Dominick's or Casey's that you frequent each week, set up an amount that you purchase in gift cards every month towards your grocery bill. It's an easy, reoccurring category that can accumulate faster than you think!
2. **Birthday parties.** Two popular birthday places are included on our list: American Girl and Build-A-Bear. Each offer 8-9% in SCRIP credit. Estimate how much you will be spending for your child's party and then purchase the gift cards before the special day. We have done this several times. It's so rewarding to pay the party in gift cards while knowing you "made money" on hosting such a special event for your child.
3. Speaking of the American Girl craze....**"Santa"** purchases gift cards for all of the AG treasures he leaves the girls on Christmas morning.
4. **Itunes.** Not sure if it's just our kids, but they are always asking for a new app (fun or educational). Having a set amount linked to their account makes it so easy. Or for the older kids, linking a gift card allows them to download all the new songs they wish to have.
5. **Coffee, donut runs.** Who is not addicted to Starbucks or Dunkin' Donuts coffee? Having a reloadable card allows those early morning stops to be more efficient and rewarding.
6. **Home Improvement.** Home Depot, Lowes, Ace and Menards. Each season my husband purchases a sizable gift card to one or several mentioned. This is especially helpful for the spring season for our new plantings. This is also helpful for all the small and large projects around the house.
7. **Home Décor.** One of our friends just purchased new bunk beds for their girls from Pottery Barn Kids, what an easy way to make a huge SCRIP credit by purchasing the gift cards first. Personally, we do a lot via Bed Bath and Beyond. We recently needed a new vacuum, so we priced our intended make/model and bought the gift cards to purchase it. We easily made \$48 just by planning ahead! Before any major purchase, it is worth checking the list to see if you can utilize the program.

8. **SpaFinder.** A lot of salons accept SpaFinder gift cards. This is also an easy way to earn a consistent rebate each month just by getting your haircut, your hair colored or doing any service that you need.
9. **Dining.** There are tons of restaurants to choose from. Some are even included in the ScripNow category so you can purchase your desired amount right before you leave the house.
10. **Travel.** Before any vacation, we always check the list for our hotel/resort. We have profited from this several times, it's great!
11. **Gas and Auto.** I know many people purchase gas cards on a continual basis. What an easy way to work toward your goal.
12. **ASCA Spiritwear purchases through Lands' End.** Lands' End offers a 16% rebate. Show your school spirit **and** earn money!

The above list includes just a few examples of how one can build SCRIP credit throughout the year. Again, with just a little planning and organization **you can achieve your fundraising goal.** Be creative, and ***always remember to check the list to see which vendors are participating.*** As you may know (or not know), more than **600 companies participate yearly in the program.** Of that, 70 stores allow you to purchase **reloadable cards**, and 92 stores allow you to utilize the **ScripNow Program** which you can receive via email and print out.

By purchasing **SCRIP on a regular basis**, along with all of the other fundraising options that are offered – Charleston gift wrap sale in the fall, donations to the annual auction – you will be able to satisfy your fundraising obligation. Our family has been successful, and **your family can be too!!!**