



# Surviving the Holidayze

## Just the Facts:

- The average person spends \$1000 per year on Christmas gifts.
- Most individuals have 6-10 people to buy gifts for each year.
- November and December account for 40% of all credit card usage.
- \$121.4 billion is spent on credit cards between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

## Reasons for Overspending?

- No Christmas spending plan (saving, tracking or budgeting)
- Excessive gift-giving due to guilt
- Competitive gift-giving
- Impulsive buying and "up-sells"
- Getting caught up in the emotions of the holidays

## Holiday Values

**Why Are The Holidays Important To You?**

**Do You Feel Your Actions and Behavior Mirror Your Values?**

## Saving for Seasonal Expenses

**Plan in January for the upcoming year.**

**Check into Christmas Club accounts at your local bank or credit union.**

**Set aside money monthly to cover all of your holiday expenses.**

**Don't take out loans to fund Christmas presents.**

## Budgeting

**Make a list of all gifts and holiday related expenses.**

**Incorporate your own holiday values into your budget.**

**Determine in advance how much you want to spend on each item or person.**

**Make a record of what you are spending. Adjust your budget if necessary, but try to stay within the budget.**

**Many of the following items are inadvertently left off the holiday budget, but if left unaccounted for, they can really start to add up:**

- Decorations & tree
- Food & baked goods
- Cards & postage
- Gift wrap & ribbon
- Parties & Secret Santa gifts
- Holiday activities
- Photos

## Shopping

**Plan a convenient time to shop:**

- **Make sure you are well rested and not feeling rushed**
- Choose a time when malls and stores will be less crowded
- **If possible, leave children at home.**
- Take along your list & budget.
- **Make an efficient plan.**
- Order online or from a catalog.
- **Avoid using credit cards & take only a set amount of cash.**
  - Watch for sales.
- **If you are looking for something specific, call ahead to see if the store has it.**
- After shopping trips compare receipts with what you have budgeted.



# Holiday Shopping List



<u>Name</u>	<u>Gift/Item</u> <u>To Be Purchased</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>Amount</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

## Personal Money Power Workshop 2011 Schedule



If you've ever wanted to find out how to gain control of your finances, this is the workshop for you! Our experts can help you build your own Personal Money Power.

### In this workshop you will learn:

How to identify where your money is being spent, how to spend less, how to build a budget and stay on track, how to organize your bill paying, tips for saving money, and how your ideas and feelings about money affect your habits.

Each workshop is for 2 consecutive Tuesday nights from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

**West Metro OKC Workshop**  
CCCS Main Office  
3230 N. Rockwell  
Bethany, OK 73008

January 11 & 18  
March 8 & 15  
May 10 & 17  
July 12 & 19  
September 13 & 20  
November 8 & 15

**East Metro Workshop**  
Del City 1st Church of the Nazarene  
(Radley Memorial Building on SE 26th and  
Viekie Drive)  
4701 SE 26th  
Del City OK, 73115

February 8 & 15  
April 12 & 19  
June 14 & 21  
August 9 & 16  
October 11 & 18

Cost is \$15 per person or \$25 per couple

Call (405)789-2227 to enroll or visit [www.ccsok.org](http://www.ccsok.org) for more information



## Helpful Hints for a Debt-Free Christmas

As shiny gift wrap and glittery trees begin popping up in stores everywhere, a warning voice from somewhere deep inside says eerily, "They're heere." Yes, the holidays are here again, and people everywhere are scrambling for their sanity.

A part of us looks forward to the joyous holiday season. Yet, another part of us dreads the endless shopping and wrapping and trying to make the budget stretch far enough.

The following are some suggestions to help you survive this season and plan for next:

**Develop a plan:** Make a list of everything that you need to buy this holiday season. Estimate a cost for each item and write out a holiday budget.

**Stick to your budget:** Before you shop, decide on a price range for each gift. Immediately rule out any item that is above your price range.

**Get crafty:** Instead of a more expensive impersonal item, try to think about a handcrafted item that might mean a lot on a sentimental level.

**Give the credit cards a holiday vacation:** One of the fastest ways to destroy a holiday budget is to use credit cards. They allow for much freer spending and may mean that you spend more than you intended.

**Don't go wild at sales:** Some people get caught up in the frenzy of holiday sales. It's really only saving money if you intended to purchase it anyway. Don't buy something just because it's on sale.

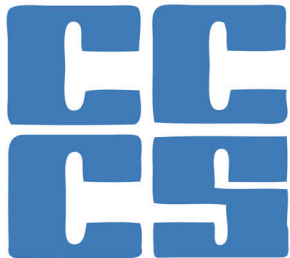
**Track your holiday expenses:** So that you will know how much to budget for next year, keep track of what you spend this year. Write down how much you spend for presents, gift wrap, decorations, parties, cards, postage & shipping, charity contributions, and baking supplies.

**Begin a Savings Account:** Open a Christmas Club or savings account. Divide your annual holiday expenses by the number of pay periods you have and set that amount aside to have a lump sum when you need it.

**Get Creative:** How can you make extra money just for the holiday season? Is a part-time job, a yard sale or online auction or craft show a possibility?

**Don't Count on the Unknown:** Some people don't budget for the holidays because they expect to get that big Christmas bonus. Remember: It's called a bonus because it's extra. Don't count on it.

**CONSUMER  
CREDIT  
COUNSELING  
SERVICE**



# Your Holiday Values

Read and prioritize the following statements. Cross off those that have no importance to you and add any equally important ones that are not included. Remember these are statements of what is important to *you* so there are no right or wrong answers.

CCCS of Central OK is a non-profit credit counseling agency that has been serving Oklahomans since 1967 with financial counseling and education. We are working with the Oklahoma Department of Consumer Credit to provide ongoing education to payday loan borrowers, as well as the general public. For more information about CCCS call us at (405) 789-2227 or 1-800-364-2227.

**Suggestion:**

Do this with your family or significant others. First have everyone fill out one of these forms. Then gather together and discuss what you have written. Use this information to formulate a holiday plan that addresses, as much as possible, each person's needs and desires.

**Importance:**

Rank the importance of each one to you. Use 1 as the most important.

The holiday season is a time:

- \_\_\_\_\_ a. to be a peacemaker in the world at large.
- \_\_\_\_\_ b. to be a peacemaker in my family.
- \_\_\_\_\_ c. to enjoy being with my family.
- \_\_\_\_\_ d. to strengthen bonds with my relatives.
- \_\_\_\_\_ e. to exchange gifts with my family and friends.
- \_\_\_\_\_ f. for parties, entertaining and visits with friends.
- \_\_\_\_\_ g. to help those who are less fortunate.
- \_\_\_\_\_ h. to create a beautiful home environment.
- \_\_\_\_\_ i. to strength my religious community.
- \_\_\_\_\_ j. for relaxation and renewal.
- \_\_\_\_\_ k. to celebrate my religious beliefs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ l. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ m. \_\_\_\_\_

[www.cccsok.org](http://www.cccsok.org)



Adapted from *Unplug the Christmas Machine* (Robinson and Staeheli).  
William Morrow, New York. 1982

