

Two Financial Resolutions to Make for 2018

The holidays have come and gone, and whether you're happy with the way your bank account looks or not, January is a great time to make some wallet-centric resolutions for the coming year.

1. Plan ahead. Keep an eye on big events going on throughout the year. Knowing a special occasion is on the horizon allows you to start setting aside the funds you'll need to enjoy it the right way. Don't let unexpected financial troubles take away from your experience.

2. Cut out unnecessary spending. Think back to your plans for this year and allocate money accordingly: Are you more likely to remember ordering out for lunch or that you finally took a family road trip? Curtail nonessential expenses so you can spend on the moments that matter.

Ensure you're prepared so you can enjoy every minute of your next special occasion. To learn more about savings products available through AAA, visit AAA.com/deposits.



Does Your Budget Need a New Year's Diet?

During the season of holiday parties, gifts, festivities and travel, your usual budget can quickly fall by the wayside. And while it's OK to treat yourself, family and friends during special occasions, it's also important to get your finances back on track.

First, it's important to understand where your money is going. Do you keep track of receipts and invoices or mindlessly swipe your credit card at the store? Keep track of the obvious — grocery bills, utilities, rent — as well as the not-so-obvious, such as your daily Starbucks habit.

Once you have an idea of your personal cash flow, map out the first places your money should be going. These items would include paying off debt as well as any essential costs, such as housing. Then, identify areas you can cut back, such as on food; eating in more, packing your lunch and shopping sales are all smart money tips.

As with any change, the most important step is getting started. Once you've begun to make some simple changes to your finances, you'll be saving money and reaping the benefits of a healthy budgetary system.

