

May 2026

Savings: Your Key to Success

You have wants. You have needs. And you have two ways of paying for them: pull out the credit card or use the money you have set aside. Which is your default method? And how do you even save when there are so many bills to pay and the paycheck only goes so far?

Do it now

Even without a specific goal, saving immediately will make you feel good. Have debt? Put a little aside anyway. Acquiring a savings habit as soon as possible is critical. By setting a little aside each month while aggressively paying down your obligations, you will advance into debt-free living with a happy little nest egg in place. And in the event of an emergency, you won't have to touch the credit cards and feel like you're driving in reverse.

Set a goal

All achievable goals share the same five factors:

- Specific – Describe your goal to the smallest details
- Measurable – How much do you need to save?
- Actionable – Break it down into reasonable action steps
- Realistic – Could you really achieve this goal in the given time?
- Time-bound – What is the time frame for the goal?

Record all of the above information and then decide on your savings tool. How much you have, your time frame, and personal risk tolerance will determine the best home for your money.

A few accounts you may consider are:

- Savings account
- A great starter account. Interest and risk are low and minimum deposit is small.
- Money market account
- This savings account pays slightly better interest but may require a higher minimum balance.
- Money market fund
- Share certificates/certificates of deposit (CDs)

- A very secure mutual fund account. Invested in high-quality, short-term investments. Higher deposit, interest and risk.

Generally a three-month to seven-year investment commitment, share certificates and CDs offer higher and fixed interest rates, but with a greater initial deposit and penalty for early withdrawal.

For mid- to long-term goals, you may opt for investments rather than savings vehicles. After you've saved enough in one of the above accounts, you can transfer your money to mutual funds, bonds, or individual stocks if you wish.

Is saving impossible? Not at all. With careful planning, savings is the key to successfully managing your money and getting what you want.



Article provided by our partner, Balance

Verify Your Contact Information

Just a reminder! As we move toward our October 1, 2026 merger completion, please make certain we have your correct and current:

- **Home address**
- **Email address**
- **Phone number(s)**

If you have already updated your contact information, thank you!

We're happy to help you make sure we have your correct info. You can have any GMFCU representative assist you or you can confirm in Online Banking anytime.

Visit Online Banking today to verify your contact information is updated. Login at goGMFCU.org



Merger Updates on goGMFCU.org

As the year progresses, we will continue to share updates about the merger and what it means for you through our website. These updates will include details on immediate changes, upcoming next steps, and an FAQ section designed to help address your questions.

In the months leading up to October, you can expect to receive emails from us more frequently than usual. This will ensure all members have ample opportunity to stay informed about the latest merger news and important updates.

Visit our website to view current merger news: goGMFCU.org/merger-announcement



Upcoming Events & Holidays

May 16	Shred Day @ South 9am-11:30am
May 25	Memorial Day CLOSED
June 19	Juneteenth CLOSED

Memorial Day Fact

Memorial Day was originally called "Decoration Day" because people honored fallen soldiers by decorating their graves with flowers, flags, and wreaths. It began after the Civil War and later became Memorial Day to honor Americans who died in all U.S. wars.

LOAN RATES

EFFECTIVE May 15th, 2026

VEHICLE LOANS

The following are approx. payback terms.	AS LOW AS
Up to 36 months	4.49% APR*
37 to 48 months	4.89% APR*
49 to 60 months	5.14% APR*

OTHER LOANS

	AS LOW AS
Mortgage	Click for current rates
Share Secured	2.05% APR*
Stock Secured	9.25% APR*
Personal Loans	9.99% APR*
Personal Line of Credit	12.90% APR*

*APR=Annual Percentage Rate. Rates are subject to change, and terms and conditions apply. Our website contains the most current rates. Contact GMFCU for complete details. NMLS #410276

LOST CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS

If your GMFCU credit or debit card is lost, stolen or if you suspect unauthorized use, please call:

CREDIT CARD - (800) 558-3424 | 24/7

DEBIT CARD - (314) 621-4575 or

(800) 621-4828 during business hours or

(800) 472-3272 | 24/7

The SLSO – Youth Orchestra Spring Concert

Written by Jeri Peterson

The St. Louis Symphony Orchestra – Youth Orchestra performed their spring concert on a beautiful day at the newly renovated Powell Symphony Hall. A Student Art Display filled the Grand Hall while families and friends of these young musicians gathered before the performance. As the official sponsor of the SLSO - Youth Orchestra, Gateway Metro Federal CU encourages Financial Literacy and Responsibility for all. Several music lovers had an opportunity let us know what their financial literacy and responsibility habits are while winning prizes and candy. It was fun way to connect with the community of all ages and share a cool educational experience.

It's always a surprise when you are asking questions from Financial Literacy PLINKO. Here are a few of the conversations:

The First to Play: Teen Friends.

The question: Would you like to win a prize by answering questions about money?

Teen #1: Do you have questions about music? I don't know anything about money.

Teen #2: I am nervous, but I will give it a try.

Teen #3: I want to try. I want to win a prize. Are they free?

The group of friends enjoyed the game and learned a couple of things about financial literacy and responsibility. They even came back to the table for more prizes after the concert.

Young Adults:

The question: Are you a saver or a spender?

YA #1: I hate to admit it, but I like to save money. I always feel like I need to save it for something really important.

YA #2: I am a spender for sure. I need to do better. I don't know where my money goes.

She's Got a Plan, age 12:

Her question: Are you saving your money for something special?

Yes, I like saving. I am putting money aside to make a donation to my church. I also like to buy jewelry.

Adults:

The question: What is the difference between a bank and a credit union?

Adult #1, I'm not sure I know the difference.

Adult #2, They have better rates than the banks, I know that.

Allison K, Marketing Specialist, shared the credit union difference with the concertgoers. She told them about our great customer service, our lower interest rates and fees and our great products and services. Everyone who stopped by to see us received gift bags containing financial literacy information and fun prizes like Piggy Banks, Fanny Packs, Bucket Hats and more. They learned about how credit unions are committed to help our members and our community to realize their financial potential.

The concert was amazing. One of the parents in attendance had never heard his son play before. He was so proud. Another parent realized that the theme music from "Star Wars" is classical music that he as familiar with and liked.



All Gateway Metro members can go to: [slso.org](https://www.slsosymphony.org) and use SLSO Discount code: **PARTNERS2526** to obtain discounted tickets to select concerts featured during the 2025/2026 Season ending in mid-September 2026. If you would like to receive a pair of free tickets to attend the Final SLSO – Youth Orchestra Concert of the Season on May 31, please contact Jeri at marketing@gmfcu.org. Share your name and contact information with me and use the subject line: GMFCU supports SLSO-YO Concerts.

Let Summer Blossom Youth's Financial Literacy & Savings!

Keep the kids engaged and learning this summer with our youth certificate program!

This program gives kids ages 2-18 the chance to learn valuable money skills all while working towards their own personal savings goals.

What better time for some financial enrichment than summer! Check out all of the details at gogmfcu.org/accounts/youth-program



*Passports must be complete 2 weeks prior to certificate maturity. For all Youth Certificates, a qualifying adult must be a full service member of GMFCU. Qualifying adult must have a share draft account with a minimum of \$200 direct deposit monthly.

Save to Win is Here For You

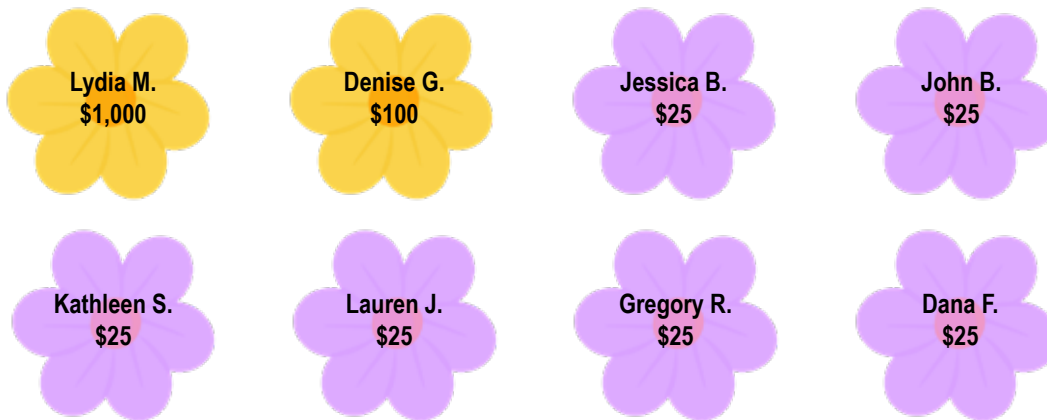
If you've been tidying up your finances and are looking for a smart way to make your money work a little harder, a Save to Win account might be your next power move.

Not only does it keep your savings safe and steadily growing—it also gives you the chance to win cash prizes ranging from \$25 all the way up to \$5,000. With monthly and quarterly drawings, you get multiple opportunities to score big, and yes, you can win more than once!

No risk, all reward, and a whole lot more fun than your typical savings routine.

If that sounds like a good deal to you, check out all of the details at goGMFCU.org

Congratulations to our March & Quarter 2 Winners!



*Limited to 100 entries per month.

Follow us on social media to stay in the Gateway Metro loop!

Informative articles, branch closures, upcoming events, contests and more!



goGMFCU.org | 314-621-4575 | 800-621-4828
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