

## INVESTING IN MY FUTURE PATCH PROGRAM WITH ICON CREDIT UNION

Girl Scouts has teamed up with ICON Credit Union to provide real-life exposure to girls that will help them become money mavens. These experiences will not only inspire girls to set glamorous goals, but will also ensure they become savvy money earners and confident money managers. (The below requirements can also be found on ICON's website at <http://www.iconcreditunion.org/investing-in-my-future/>)



All ages complete the \* activities.

**Daisies** also complete 1 activity from each Discover, Connect and Take Action Category  
**Brownies** and **Juniors** complete 2 activities from each Discover, Connect and Take Action Category  
**Cadettes**, **Seniors** and **Ambassadors** complete 3 activities from each Discover, Connect and Take Action Category

\*Earn one age appropriate Financial Literacy Badge or Leaf (each age level has 2 available, Cadettes have 3. Requirements can be found in the Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting)

Discover:

1. Learn about the things that your family must budget for month to month. Build a budget for meeting your family's current expenses (food, utilities, rent, loan payments, entertainment, etc.). Teens, create your own budget using ICON's tool found at [http://www.iconcreditunion.org/app/uploads/2014/12/Accel-KAM\\_TeenBudget.pdf](http://www.iconcreditunion.org/app/uploads/2014/12/Accel-KAM_TeenBudget.pdf)
2. Talk with people to find out how they have saved for larger purchases/expenses like a car, house or college. Think of something you would like to buy. How much money would you need to save?
3. To reach your financial dreams you need to make money. What job or career would you like to pursue and how much do people who are in that job/career typically make? What jobs can you do now to earn money? Learn about some jobs that work with money at <https://kids.usa.gov/teens/money/learn-about-money-jobs/index.shtml>
4. When you place your money in a savings account, you can earn interest on your money. What is interest? With the help with a parent/guardian, figure out how much you might have in 10 years if you saved \$200 now.
5. What is the difference between credit and debit cards? What is a credit score? What habits need to be practiced to achieve a high credit score? How can teenagers begin to build their own credit rating? With a parent/guardian, view some of ICON's videos on these subjects at [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLlmmYz2ITiS\\_AWOHXg3\\_oab1SRgo-Qoe1](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLlmmYz2ITiS_AWOHXg3_oab1SRgo-Qoe1)
6. What are ways that you can save/invest your money so it increases in value over time? Research different ways to invest money. Find out more at <https://kids.usa.gov/teens/money/saving-money/index.shtml>
7. Research new ways that technology is changing banking and payment methods. Talk with someone that has been banking and paying bills for 10 years, 20 years, 30 years and find how things are different.

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8. Research where money comes from. Where is it printed/minted? Can our country just make money any time we want? Visit <https://www.usmint.gov/kids/> or <http://www.bep.treas.gov/>

### Connect:

1. Take a tour of a local ICON Credit Union branch. (if in an area without a branch, visit another bank) Meet with a Branch Manager to learn about their job and how they help people reach their financial dreams. Make sure and set up a good time to visit with the Branch Manager ahead of time.
2. You might earn money through an allowance, birthday gifts, part-time jobs, babysitting, helping with housework/chores or assisting a neighbor. What are different things you can do today to earn money?
3. Discuss with parents/guardians how they track their finances. Do they use online banking options, computer programs like Quicken or the paper and pen method of a register?
4. How do you apply for financial aid or loans for purchase of a car or to cover the costs of college? Research on your own or with an adult to find out what options are available. Use the helpful tips or student budget worksheet found at <http://www.iconcreditunion.org/financial-planning/financial-education/>
5. What are ways that interest works for or against you when you are saving money or taking out a loan? Calculate the true cost of buying a car or home if you take out a loan with a financial institution under the current interest rates. You can use the financial calculators found at <http://www.iconcreditunion.org/resources/financial-calculators/>
6. Do you want to become a millionaire? Create a plan to determine how much you need to earn and save to meet this goal. How long will this take? How old will you be? Use the savings calculator found at <http://www.iconcreditunion.org/resources/financial-calculators/>

### Take Action:

1. You have learned a lot about budgeting, saving and setting financial goals. Share what you have learned with friends, family or other Girl Scouts.
2. Create a dream board that documents your financial goal(s) and share it with a friend or family member.
3. Set a savings goal for your own purchases that will help you reach your financial dream. Build your plan to include something for now, something for the future, and something to give away.
4. You can achieve your goals by making a plan to cut un-needed spending. Use some of the resources at <https://www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/news/cnsum06/spending.html> to help.
5. Open a savings/checking account to save your money for your financial goal.
6. Teach someone who may not be technically savvy how to use online or mobile banking technology, automatic bill pay, transferring money, using online banking to manage your accounts, setting up alerts for security and/or paying with your smartphone.