



Important Dates for 2009

Keeping your personal finances on track just got easier with TSCPA's helpful Outlook calendar reminders. Pick which important personal finance dates you want to remember or choose them all!

February

Feb. 2 – Compile your tax forms

The 2008 W-2 and 1099 tax forms are sent to you by this date. Start a file to compile them along with all other records and receipts for your state and federal tax returns.

Feb. 3 – Compare January expenses to budget

Compare actual January expenses to your personal budget and make adjustments. Pay yourself first when writing monthly bills and commit that money to savings!

Feb. 22 – America Saves Week

February 22 to March 1, is the perfect time to think about saving for retirement, reducing debt and investing. Visit www.americasaves.org for resources.

March

March 1 – National Pig Day

National Pig Day is the perfect time to think about feeding your piggy bank and develop small steps to save for retirement. Visit www.feedthepig.org for tips and tools.

March 2 – Obtain FAFSA applications

Obtain the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for 2009 from your high school guidance counselor, or visit www.fafsa.ed.gov. Deadline to submit is June 30, 2009.

March 6 – Review your bank services

Review your bank services and fees. Avoid the hidden fee increases and charges for services by shopping around. Evaluate your own banking habits and what you need from your bank.

March 16 – Corporate tax returns are due

Corporate tax returns are due. Visit www.irs.gov for forms and filing information.

April

April 1 – Financial Literacy Month begins

Financial Literacy Month begins nationwide. To celebrate, the Texas Society of CPAs offers free programs and resources.

April 8 – Last minute tax tips

Don't forget to visit the Tax Talk section for resources for the public, business and nonprofits.

April 15 – Federal income taxes due; IRA contributions due

Your federal income tax return is due to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Visit www.irs.gov for forms and online filing information. Also, it's the last day to establish or contribute to an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) in 2008, and to file partnership returns.

May

May 6 – Start holiday savings

If you start saving \$2.50 a day and continue through Thanksgiving, you'll have about \$500 to spend during the holidays.

May 25 – Prepare financially for a disaster

Are you financially prepared for disaster? While it's unsettling to think a natural disaster could drain your financial resources, emergencies can and do occur. You can be prepared by organizing your financial records, being adequately insured and building an emergency fund.

June

June 1 – Determine your financial compatibility

June is wedding season and a great time to talk about your finances with your current or soon-to-be-spouse. Visit www.ValueYourMoney.org to take a short quiz to test your financial compatibility as a couple.

June 10 – Improve your fuel efficiency

Look for ways to improve your fuel efficiency. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, there are a number of ways drivers can improve fuel efficiency and save up to a dollar every gallon: slow down, check for regular maintenance repairs, carpool, cut back on AC or use mass transit.

June 30 – FAFSA due for 2009

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is due for 2009. Visit www.fafsa.ed.gov for a free online application.

July

July 4 – Independence Day

Plan for your financial independence by setting a goal to reduce debt and spending and increase income. Review your personal budget and make adjustments to meet your goal.

July 7 – Review your investments

Review your investment categories to their respective benchmarks and adjust your investment portfolio accordingly. You'll be on your way to financial freedom.

July 23 – Start rainy day savings

Put aside 5-% of your new raise toward your rainy day savings fund.

August

Aug. 11 – Get a copy of your credit report

Order a copy of your credit report and look closely to make sure it contains accurate information. If errors are found, you are entitled to have them corrected. Federal law required that consumers can access their free credit report once a year. The nationwide consumer credit reporting companies provide this service as www.annualcreditreport.com.

Aug. 19 – Avoid college credit card traps

College classes are starting and so are the offers from credit card companies. Remember, one card is enough and it's not "free" money. College years are an important time to build good credit history.

September

Sept. 2 – Consider a college savings plan

Consider a college savings plan, like an education individual retirement account (IRA), 529 plans or another mechanism for funding your child's or grandchild's higher education. Visit www.americanfunds.com for details.

Sept. 7 – Labor Day

Labor Day was established to honor American workers. Pat yourself on the back for all your hard work and know that you're planning for retirement. When you work and pay Social Security taxes, you earn Social Security benefits. Your benefit amount is based on your earnings averaged over most of your working career.

Sept. 23 – Get student resources at www.tscpa.org

For information on scholarships, Texas colleges, career resources and more, visit the TSCPA student section of www.tscpa.org.

October

Oct. 1 – Insurance check-up

Take this day to check up on your insurance coverage, health, life, property, auto and others. Visit one or two agents and ask them to explain different insurance plans and provide quotes.

Oct. 5 – Jump\$tart Coalition has personal finance resources

Jump\$tart Coalitions for Personal Financial Literacy is a nonprofit that aims to improve financial education of students and young adults. Visit www.jumpstart.org for educational resources.

Oct. 20 – Get insurance tips at www.360financialliteracy.org

For information on insurance as well as financial tips and tools for every stage of your life, visit www.360financialliteracy.org. There's even an "Ask the Money Dr." section to get free advice from CPAs.

November

Nov. 5 – Check your holiday savings

Check the balance of your holiday savings account and start making your holiday shopping list.

Nov. 10 – Review your flexible spending accounts

Review your pre-tax flexible spending accounts against your actual expenses and increase or decrease withholdings in 2009.

Nov. 26 – Thanksgiving Day

The Thanksgiving Day holiday was established so Americans could give thanks for all their blessings. Why not distribute good will and give to your favorite charities? The contribution will put a smile on your face and put money in your wallet at tax time.

Nov. 30 – Review your investments' capital gains and losses

Review your investments for capital gains and losses. Offset gains with losses in your portfolio, if necessary.

December

Dec. 1 – Review charitable contributions

Get in the holiday spirit! Consider increasing your charitable contributions or other tax-deductible items for the 2010 tax year.

Dec. 18 – Review IRA and pension accounts

If you are over 70½, make sure you have taken any minimum distributions from your Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA) and pension plans.

Dec. 31 – Charitable deductions due

Ring in the New Year by knowing you've achieved financial fitness all year long! Make sure your charitable contribution check is in the mail and postmarked by December 31 to claim a deduction on your taxes for 2009.