

SUMMER SAVVY: REFRESHING YOUR FINANCIAL WELLNESS MID-YEAR

As the midpoint of the year is now here, it's an opportune time to assess your financial health and make any necessary adjustments to ensure you're on track to meet your goals. Much like the changing seasons, your financial landscape can benefit from a refresh, especially during the vibrant days of summer. Let's explore some strategies to rejuvenate your financial wellness during this time of the year.

Take some time to **review the financial goals** you set at the beginning of 2024. Are you making progress? Have any circumstances changed that require adjustments to your goals? Don't worry if you have to realign based on changing circumstances. Now is a great opportunity to evaluate and do a "reset" of your priorities and set new targets if needed.

With longer days and warmer weather, **energy costs** may rise. Take advantage of energy-efficient practices, such as using natural light during the day and minimizing air conditioning usage, to reduce utility bills. Additionally, explore summer sales and promotions to save on seasonal items and essentials. Summer also offers numerous opportunities for affordable entertainment and recreation. Look for free community events, outdoor concerts, or local parks and trails for budget-friendly fun. Engaging in activities that don't break the bank can help you stay on track with your financial goals while enjoying the season.

Review your investment portfolio to ensure it aligns with your risk tolerance and long-term objectives. Consider rebalancing your portfolio if necessary to maintain diversification and mitigate risk. Take advantage of any investment opportunities that may arise during the summer months.

Use the summer season as an opportunity to **declutter your home** and sell items you no longer need or use. Hosting a garage sale or listing items online can not only clear physical space but also generate extra cash that can be put towards savings or debt repayment. Be cautious of overspending on seasonal expenses such as travel, dining out, or recreational activities. When you set realistic budgets for these categories and stick to them, it helps to avoid unnecessary debt or financial strain.

While summer may be a time of relaxation, it's also a precursor to **back-to-school season**. Start planning and budgeting for upcoming school-related expenses, such as supplies, clothing, and extracurricular activities, to avoid last-minute financial stress.

Don't forget that maintaining financial discipline is important, but it's also essential to **enjoy the season**. *USA Today* recently reported that families return home from Disney vacations with an average of nearly \$2000 in debt¹. A better option is to plan and budget for summer activities such as vacations, outdoor events, or family gatherings. By incorporating these expenses into your budget, you can avoid overspending and fully embrace the joys of summer without financial stress.

As you soak up the sunshine and embrace the warmth of summer, go ahead and take proactive steps to enhance your financial wellness. By incorporating these strategies into your summer routine, you can ensure a season filled with both enjoyment and financial stability.



FINANCIAL WELLNESS

Financial wellness goes hand in hand with your overall well-being. Take time to recharge and prioritize self-care during the summer months. Whether it's spending time outdoors, practicing mindfulness, or engaging in hobbies, investing in your mental and physical health is essential for long-term financial success.

¹(June 14, 2024). Survey: 45% of parents take on debt . . . *USA Today*. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/travel/experience/theme-parks/2024/06/14/disney-vacation-parents-children-debt/74102655007/>.

SUMMERTIME FUN WITH YOUR DEBIT CARD: SAFE, SECURE, AND CONVENIENT!

Ah, summer – the season of sun-kissed adventures, poolside lounging, and backyard BBQs. As you gear up for a season filled with exciting activities and well-deserved getaways, your trusty Interra debit card should be your ultimate companion. But wait, isn't it risky to rely on your Interra debit card for all your summer escapades? Fear not! We'll explore how using your Interra debit card can make your summer safer, secure, and hassle-free.

Safe and Secure Transactions.

Gone are the days of carrying wads of cash or worrying about lost traveler's checks. With your Interra debit card in hand, you can breeze through summer with peace of mind. Our debit card offers robust security features, including EMV chip technology and advanced encryption, ensuring that transactions are safeguarded against fraudsters.



Set Travel Perimeters.

Planning a road trip or jetting off to a tropical paradise? With our debit card, you have the power to set travel parameters (Travel Notice) before you leave, giving you control over where your card can be used. Whether you're exploring exotic locales or sticking close to home, rest assured that your debit card will only work where you want it to.

Manage Subscriptions.

With your Interra debit card, it's essential to stay on top of your finances by managing subscriptions and staying informed about important updates like balance notifications, loan payment reminders, login alerts, and transaction notifications. Sign up for alerts to stay in control of your finances.

Stay Alert with Fraud Detection.

As much as we'd like to think otherwise, fraud is a real threat. But fear not – your debit card automatically comes equipped with state-of-the-art fraud detection technology. Plus, you can set up alerts to notify you of transactions and account activity, so you can act swiftly to protect your hard-earned money.

Set Up Your Digital Wallet.

Is your Interra debit card at the top of your wallet? In the wallet app, touch and hold your Interra debit card and drag it in front of your other cards to set it as the default.

This summer, let your Interra debit card be your trusted companion for all your summertime adventures. With its security features, convenient travel settings, and proactive fraud detection, you can focus on making memories rather than worrying about the safety of your finances. So go ahead, dive into summer with confidence – your debit card has got your back!

How to set subscriptions, and fraud alerts on your debit card:

- From your mobile device, choose Menu / Alerts.
- From your laptop click on the 3 dots next to your profile.

To set or schedule travel notice:

- In the search bar type "Travel Notice".

NAVIGATING COLLEGE FINANCING: STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

Embarking on the journey to higher education is an exciting and transformative experience, but it often comes with the daunting task of figuring out how to finance it. Whether you've received scholarship money or not, planning for college expenses and navigating the student loan process requires careful consideration and organization. Here are 8 tips to help you manage the financial aspect of your college education.

1. Assess Your Financial Situation.

Before diving into the world of college financing, assess your current financial situation. Calculate your expected college expenses, including tuition, fees, room and board, textbooks, and personal expenses. Determine how much you and your family can contribute from savings, income, and other sources.

2. Explore Scholarship Opportunities.

If you've received scholarship money, congratulations! Be sure to understand the terms and conditions of each scholarship, including any renewal criteria or obligations. If you haven't received scholarships, don't worry—there are still plenty of opportunities available. Research and apply for scholarships from various sources, including academic institutions, private organizations, and community foundations.

3. Understand the Student Loan Process.

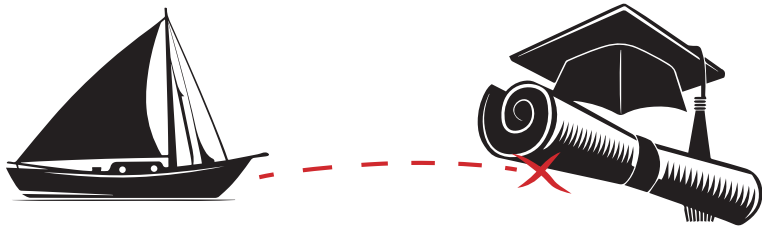
Familiarize yourself with the student loan process, including

the types of loans available, eligibility criteria, interest rates, and repayment options. Federal student loans typically offer more favorable terms and repayment options compared to private loans. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to determine your eligibility for federal student aid, including grants, loans, and work-study opportunities.

4. Ask the Right Questions.

When considering student loans, ask relevant questions to make informed decisions such as:

- What are the interest rates and fees associated with the loan?
- Are there any deferment or forbearance options available?
- What are the repayment terms and options?
- Is there a grace period after graduation before repayment begins?
- Are there any loan forgiveness or discharge programs available?



5. Stay Organized.

Organization is key to managing college finances effectively. Keep track of important documents, deadlines, and communication with financial aid offices and lenders. Create a budget to allocate funds for tuition, housing, meals, transportation, and other expenses. Consider using financial management tools or apps to track spending and monitor your budget.

6. Minimize Borrowing.

While student loans can provide valuable financial assistance, it's important to borrow responsibly and minimize debt whenever possible. Explore alternative sources of funding, such as part-time employment, internships, or work-study programs, to supplement your income and reduce reliance on loans. Some students consider attending a community

college for the first two years before transferring to a four-year institution to save on tuition costs.

7. Plan for Repayment.

Develop a repayment plan before borrowing student loans. Estimate your future monthly loan payments based on your anticipated income after graduation. You will also want to consider options such as income-driven repayment plans or loan consolidation to manage repayment more effectively. Smart borrowers start building good credit habits early by making timely payments and avoiding default.

8. Seek Guidance and Support.

Don't hesitate to seek guidance and support from college counselors, financial aid advisors, and other trusted professionals. They can provide valuable insights, resources, and assistance throughout the college financing process.

Navigating college financing can be complex, but with careful planning, research, and organization, you can successfully fund your education while minimizing financial stress. Remember to stay proactive, informed, and resourceful as you embark on this exciting chapter of your life.

Best of luck on your college journey!

MAXIMIZING YOUR SAVINGS: EXPLORING THE BENEFITS OF OUR LINKED MONEY MARKET SAVINGS ACCOUNT

As the sun shines brighter and the days grow longer, this time of the year brings with it a multitude of opportunities for fun and relaxation. But amidst the excitement of vacations, outdoor adventures, and leisurely pursuits, it's important not to lose sight of your financial goals. That's where Interra's LINKed Money Market Savings Account (LINKed MMSA) comes into play. This article explores the benefits of this powerful financial tool.



Competitive Rates.

Say goodbye to lower dividends and hello to the potential for substantial earnings with our LINKed MMSA. Unlike traditional

savings accounts, which sometimes offer lower dividends, when you have an Interra checking account¹, and enrolled in online banking and e-statements, Interra's LINKed MMSA account provides you with higher yield options², helping your savings grow faster. (That's why we call it LINKed MMSA.) With competitive rates tailored to meet your financial needs, you can make the most of your savings without lifting a finger.

Easy Access to Funds.

With our LINKed MMSA account, you have easy access to your funds whenever adventure calls. Enjoy the flexibility of unlimited withdrawals and transfers, so you can seize every opportunity that comes your way without worrying about restrictions or penalties.

Tiered Dividend and Interest Structures.

Not all savings goals are created equal, and our LINKed MMSA recognizes that fact. It features a tiered earning structure, providing higher balances with even greater returns. Plus, you can make unlimited deposits to this account. This approach rewards your commitment to building robust cash reserves, incentivizing prudent financial management practices. Whether you're saving up for a dream vacation or building an emergency fund, you'll enjoy the benefits of these competitive rates that grow alongside your savings.

Convenient Account Management.

Gone are the days of complicated banking processes and endless paperwork. Interra's LINKed MMSA offers seamless account management tools designed with your convenience in mind. Whether you prefer to bank online, via mobile app, or in person, you'll have access to intuitive features that make monitoring and managing your finances a breeze. Overall, "linking" your relationship accounts with Interra can streamline your banking experience and potentially unlock additional perks and conveniences.

From competitive rates and easy access to funds to tiered dividends, Interra's LINKed MMSA can help you maximize your savings and achieving your financial goals. So why wait? Start saving smarter today and make this summer one to remember! Open your LINKed MMSA now.

CALLING ALL BUSINESSES

Looking for a MMSA that offers competitive dividends for your business? Interra also offers a Business LINKed MMSA! Check out information at interracu.com/business/savings.

LINKed MMSA



¹Must be in good standing. ²Maintain a daily balance of \$10,000.

Hundreds of mortgage loans¹ to choose from.

INcredible!




AMERICAN SHARE INSURANCE Your savings insured to \$250,000 per account. By members' choice, this institution is not federally insured. NMLS #623379

¹All loans subject to eligibility, not all will qualify.

MASTERCARD SWEEPSTAKES

Whether you're grabbing pizza for the family or fueling up for a road-trip, each eligible purchase you make with your Interra Mastercard® between now and 9/30/24 could be an entry for a chance to win a grand prize trip and more!

Now through September 30, 2024, every eligible purchase you make with your Interra Mastercard will earn an entry for a chance to win a grand prize trip and more! Choose from 14 trips, including carving the slopes of Jackson Hole or wandering the cobblestone streets in Puerto Rico. Every eligible tap, swipe and check out with your Mastercard gets you closer to the action.

Rules: <https://bit.ly/41wtGJF>

Contactless-enabled Mastercard accepted at participating locations. Visit [mastercard.com/tapandgolocation](https://www.mastercard.com/tapandgolocation) for more details.



¹Interra Credit Union is not responsible for the Sweepstakes rules, eligibility, outcomes, or awarding of prizes for this Sweepstakes.



2024 FAIR SCHEDULE

Summer is here, and so are the local community fairs! Good luck to all participants. We look forward to seeing you this season!

- **St. Joseph County 4-H Fair:** June 28 – July 6
- **LaGrange County 4-H Fair:** July 6 – July 13
- **Kosciusko County 4-H Fair:** July 7 – July 13
- **Noble County 4-H Fair:** July 11 – July 20
- **Marshall County 4-H Fair:** July 13 – July 19
- **Elkhart County 4-H Fair:** July 19 – July 27

HOLIDAYS

In recognition of upcoming holidays please note these important dates when all Interra offices will be closed. Connect with us using Interra's technology banking including our mobile app¹, online banking and ATMs.

July
4 – Fourth of July – Closed

September
2 – Labor Day – Closed

You can find Interra's branch hours, holidays and locations at <https://www.interracu.com/hours-locations>

¹Data carrier rates may apply.



Get connected today!
   

Hours and Locations
Visit [interracu.com/hours-locations](https://www.interracu.com/hours-locations)
or call 574.534.2506 or 888.432.2848

