

OKMM Supports Jump\$tart Your Money Week

Jump\$tart Your Money (JYM) Week, a statewide initiative of the Oklahoma Jump\$tart Coalition to raise awareness of financial education issues, was held April 25-29. More than 120 educational events were held across the state by a variety of organizations, agencies, institutions, and businesses. OKMM is an Oklahoma Jump\$tart partner and JYM Week sponsor.



In the spirit of JYM Week, informational workshops on the Oklahoma Teacher's Retirement System, Sooner Save, and the Oklahoma College Savings Plan were provided for Oklahoma Guaranteed Student Loan Program (OGSLP) staff. Additionally, OKMM provided financial literacy activities for the National Take Your Sons and Daughters to Work Day events at OGSLP. OKMM also participated in a financial literacy coalitions summit, JYM Week Capitol Day, and the Oklahoma Council on Economic Education's *Golden Apple Teacher Awards* program. Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, a field site in OKMM's AmeriCorps Education Award Program (OKMM-EAP), also hosted several JYM Week activities.

OKMM Expands Training & Development to Meet Community Needs

In June, OKMM staff presented at the Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies Conference. The purpose of the session was to share information about OKMM and explore the variety of curricular options for teaching personal finance through localized outreach programs. Several OKMM-EAP field sites are working collaboratively with local Community Action Agencies and other organizations to support community development efforts. Clearly, these groups recognize the value of financial literacy as an integral component of their mission, goals, and programming for youth, young adults, and families.



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OKMM staff recently attended a training session, *Bridges Out of Poverty: Strategies for Professionals and Communities* by Terie Dreussi Smith, to learn strategies and techniques for recognizing, understanding, and addressing the needs of low-income and poverty-stricken families. Hopefully, sharing these concepts will help partners, OKMM-EAP members, and community leaders understand how people from different socioeconomic backgrounds prioritize financial goals and are motivated to take action.

A\$\$ETS

Tips of the Trade

BUDGET-FRIENDLY GIFT GIVING

If you had tons of money to spare, would you choose to spend it buying housewares for friends or celebrating other people's love and good fortune? If you're between college graduation and a mid-life crisis, that's probably what you're doing, as invitations pour in for weddings, bridal showers and parties, and other festivities for your friends and family. Soon you'll be attending baby showers, milestone birthday and anniversary bashes, and retirement parties, and spending a small fortune on gifts, clothes, and travel in the process. Celebrating friends and family is one of life's great pleasures. How can you celebrate them without emptying your wallet or filling up the plastic?

Learn to say no (selectively). Weigh the cost and your resources against your desire and obligation to attend. You obviously can't turn down your brother or your best friend, but a former college pal you rarely speak to may merit a pass. Nor do you have to attend every event of every wedding you're invited to - perhaps you can skip the shower and parties and just go to the wedding. As for pricey destination weddings, you shouldn't feel obligated unless you're related to the couple. If you do decide to attend, try to make a vacation of it. Budget-wise, that's two birds with one buck!

Get creative with gifts. Many people think you should buy a gift equal in value to what your hosts spend on you as a guest. If you're a recent grad with student loan debt, a less expensive gift is fine, since it's understood you're not flush.

If you're not inclined to buy the saucer from a \$400 place setting, give a store gift card; the couple can use it to buy something else on their registry. Or, if you're handy, offer your services instead (say, to paint a room). And don't forget the glories of the group gift: one nice gift with your name attached, for a fraction of the cost. That way, you're still supporting your friends' happiness, but you'll have some money left to fund your own!

Adapted from "The High Cost of Being Popular," Jeanne Sahadi, MONEY Magazine.

The Stock Report

Helium was up, but feathers were down. Paper was stationary. Knives were up sharply, and pencils lost a few points. Elevators rose, while escalators continued a slow decline. Light switches were off. Mining equipment hit rock bottom. Diapers remained unchanged, but balloon prices were inflated. Finally, batteries exploded in an attempt to recharge the market.

Value-Added

Resources for Your Financial Future

Jump\$tart Coalition Personal Finance Clearinghouse

www.jumpstartclearinghouse.org

The Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy offers a clearinghouse of resources - many of them low-cost or free - from a variety of education providers, such as government, business, and non-profit organizations. Teachers often use these instructional materials to support their state's standards in economics, business, math, and family and consumer sciences.

The personal finance clearinghouse has two primary functions: to identify personal finance education materials for use in K-12 classrooms, in a variety of formats and from multiple sources; and to provide timely assistance to information seekers, largely through electronic services.

Users can search the online clearinghouse by:

- grade level;
- key words;
- title;
- source;
- media type (books, videos, software, teaching guides, flyers, web pages);
- Jump\$tart major descriptors (income, money management, saving and investing, spending and credit).



The OKMM AmeriCorps Connection

for Site Supervisors:

Motivating & Sustaining Members in National Service

Members are more likely to develop and sustain commitment to goals when:

- **They understand the mission, values, and goals of national service, and see them in action.** It's important that supervisors not only share information about national service, but also model the principles of the national service movement.
- **They feel appreciated for their contributions.** Members and volunteers usually value a direct supervisor's approval more than praise from anyone else in the program.
- **They are competent and confident.** Training, performance assessment, and constructive feedback help identify challenges early and build confidence and practical skills.
- **They have influence in developing their roles in the program.** Involve your members in the planning process. Having a voice generates a feeling of ownership and commitment.
- **Their personal goals are met.** Get to know your members as individuals and try to understand what motivates each one. Consider that knowledge when assigning duties, so both program and individual goals are achieved.

Adapted from "Stepping up to the Challenge: Strategies for Motivating and Sustaining Members in National Service," Nicholas Zefran, NCPC; [The Resource Connection](#).

Future Dates

- September 16 Member training - OKC
- September 23 Member training - Tulsa

for Members:

Planning Educational Sessions & Activities

When planning financial literacy activities, a few simple steps will save you headaches!

- Create a **planning document** with timelines. Be sure to include all relevant information, such as your contact's cell phone number, a list of materials to bring, and directions to the facility.
- Step through the information about tracking tools in your **Resource Notebook** to ensure that all important information about the education session or activity is collected.
- **Confirm logistics** with facility staff (time and date, room configuration, unlocked doors). Typically, calling one to two days in advance is sufficient. Bear in mind that e-mail may not be the best way to confirm; a phone call is usually more efficient.
- **Arrive early** to handle final preparations, such as placing handouts in seats or stocking a resource table with materials. If you're using technical equipment, such as an LCD projector for a PowerPoint presentation, allow at least 30 minutes for set-up and testing.
- Note any **follow-up** to be done after the session or activity. Be sure to send thank-you notes to anyone who helped you!



Welcome to our newest field site,
Western Oklahoma State College!