

# ACHIEVEments

JULY 2012

## 5 Tips

### Getting the Most from Your Credit Card

1. Pay on time.
2. Stay below your credit limit.
3. Avoid unnecessary fees.
4. Pay more than the minimum payment.
5. Watch for changes in the terms of your account.

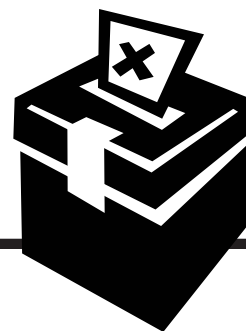
Read detailed information at

[http://www.federalreserve.gov/consumerinfo/fivetips\\_creditcard.htm](http://www.federalreserve.gov/consumerinfo/fivetips_creditcard.htm)

## Poll

What is the best service offered by your financial institution?

Send your answers to [achieve@lapfa.org](mailto:achieve@lapfa.org), subject: *Best Service*.



Wednesday,  
September 12, 2012  
Baton Rouge, LA

OR

Friday,  
September 14, 2012  
Alexandria, LA

REGISTER  
NOW

**ATTENTION: YOU ARE TO REPORT FOR DUTY FOR THE  
2012 FINANCIAL EDUCATION BOOT CAMP**

Registration fee is \$75.

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[www.jumpstart.org/2012-financial-education-boot-camp.html](http://www.jumpstart.org/2012-financial-education-boot-camp.html)

Open to educators

& community organizations

## Auto Financing Tips



Consider the following auto financing tips when purchasing a vehicle:

- Order a copy of your credit report and correct any errors several months before shopping for a vehicle.
- Get pre-approved for a loan by a your financial institution.
- Make the largest down payment you can.
- Negotiate the best price on the vehicle if you are going to apply for a loan at the dealership. Avoid extending these types of loans as it will increase your total cost.
- If a deposit is required, ask whether you will get it back if you change your mind. If so, get it in writing.
- Be aware that service contracts, credit insurance, extended warranties, and other options are not required and can be costly over the term of the loan.
- Be careful of ads that promise loans for people with bad credit. These deals often require a higher down payment or have a very high APR.

## Go Green with Your Personal Finances



- Use online banking
- Log on frequently to check accounts for fraud
- Sign up for electronic bill pay
- Transfer money between accounts electronically
- Opt for paperless statements
- Choose direct deposit of paycheck
- File taxes electronically
- Use debit or credit to eliminate paper used to print checks
- Reduce junk mail (optoutprescreen.com)
- Convert earned credit rewards into cash donations to environmental groups



Receive ACHIEVEments via e-mail. Send your e-mail address to [achieve@lapfa.org](mailto:achieve@lapfa.org), subject: *Go-Green*.

*Improving the lives of individuals through personal financial training*

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