October 2024

Tongass Federal Credit Union

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BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITIES THROUGH FINANCIAL EDUCATION!

Financial education isn't just about managing money—it's about helping our communities thrive.

In the 1960s, pulp mill workers and teachers in Sitka and Ketchikan faced unique challenges when traditional financial institutions wouldn't serve them. This led them to create their own financial institutions, ALPS FCU and Tongass FCU, where the needs of neighbors and fellow workers were prioritized over profits. This legacy continues to shape our commitment to our members and communities today, particularly through financial education.

Collaboration is crucial in Southeast where our communities are tightly connected by shared resources and mutual support. For our Tongass team, the "Spirit of the Tongass" is a guiding principle, reminding us that strength comes from working together. Just as the ancient forest thrives through interconnected ecosystems, our communities flourish through cooperation and support.

As our Southeast Alaskan communities evolve, so does the need for financial knowledge. From high school students to elders, everyone benefits from support along their financial journey, and our goal is to meet people where they are and provide the tools needed to thrive.

Starting good money habits early can have a big impact on a child's future. That's why we celebrate Youth Month every October. The month is filled with parties, specials, and prizes, all aimed at getting kids excited about saving and planning for the future. It's a fun way to kickstart lifelong, healthy money habits. *Check the back of this page for information about this month's Youth Month plans!*

This September, we hosted free workshops in Klukwan focused on essential topics such as credit building, budgeting, savings, and home buying. This summer and fall, we've partnered with SAIL to provide financial education in Juneau, Haines, Sitka, and Ketchikan. We're planning additional workshops and are dedicated to delivering valuable resources to all our communities.

Our GET REAL financial reality fairs simulate real-life financial situations and help high school seniors understand the impact of their financial decisions. This fall, we're excited to host reality fairs in both Haines and Sitka. These events often lead to reviews like "Save your money!" and "Wow, kids are really expensive!"

This year, we awarded 11 Jump Start Your Life scholarships to graduating high school seniors. Additionally, we offer our ALPS (Achieving Lasting Potential) Scholarship to adult students pursuing higher education. These scholarships represent not just an investment in these students' futures but also a commitment to the continued vitality of the communities they call home.

At Tongass Federal Credit Union, we know that strong communities are built on knowledge and access to resources. Together with our partners, we're excited to continue building a future where all Southeast Alaskans can stand strong together.

IT'S YOUTH MONTH!

October is Youth Month, and Tongass Federal Credit Union is excited to celebrate the financial futures of our kids!

This year's theme, "Build Your Future," invites young savers to engage with money management in a fun and creative way. With our LEGO-themed activities and promotions, we aim to inspire kids to think about their financial goals.

Throughout October, every new youth savings account opened earns a free prize and a chance to win a Nintendo Switch Lite! Additionally, every deposit made during the month also qualifies for a prize and enters participants into the drawing. Parents can even take advantage of our $5 deposit match coupon to maximize their child's savings.

At Tongass FCU, we believe in the importance of financial literacy. That's why we encourage parents to involve their children in discussions about saving and spending. Setting savings goals together can make the process exciting and rewarding. Our branches are decked out in LEGO decor to make saving feel like an adventure, and we invite families to stop by and join the fun!

As we celebrate Youth Month, we emphasize that it's never too early to start saving. The lessons learned today can pave the way for a brighter financial future. Visit your local branch or microsite this October to learn more about opening a youth savings account and start building a strong foundation for your child's financial success!

CLOSURES THIS QUARTER

October 14, Monday
Indigenous Peoples Day

November 11, Monday
Veterans' Day

November 28, Thursday
Thanksgiving Day

December 25, Wednesday
Christmas Day

January 1, 2025, Wednesday
New Year's Day

#SoutheastStrong

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