

THRIFT STANDARDS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS



EARNING AND PRODUCING. Everyone should contribute to the cost of his support by doing useful work at home; and in time by earning and contributing money toward his expenses.

SPENDING for boys or girls, whether by themselves or by others for them, should be wisely planned to avoid wasteful expenditure.

SAVING should be made whenever any money is received by gift, allowance, or earning. These savings should be invested and re-invested to create a fund that will safeguard the owner.

GIVING should be planned to serve the one who receives.

KEEPING RECORDS encourages a person to earn at full capacity, to spend wisely, to increase his savings and investments, and to give liberally.



Thrift Leaflet No. 20

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & TREASURY DEPARTMENT



HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO SUPPORT YOU?

Did you ever stop to think how much it costs your parents to keep you well and comfortable and to educate you to be a useful man or woman? Ask them to help you fill in the items in this table. The total may surprise you.

ESTIMATE OF MY COST OF MAINTENANCE: Date,, 1919

For food materials.....	Per week, \$.....	; per year, \$.....
New clothing purchased.....	Per month, \$.....	; per year, \$.....
My share of house rent or expense..	Per month, \$.....	; per year, \$.....
My share of laundry cost.....	Per week, \$.....	; per year, \$.....
My share of heat and light bills.....	per year, \$.....	
My share of reading, recreation, and my education.....	per year, \$.....	
My share of doctor's and dentist's bills.....	per year, \$.....	
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Total estimated cost per year.....	\$.....	
Estimated cost per week		
(cost per year divided by 52).....	\$.....	

In addition to this money cost there are also the benefits secured by the unpaid labor of mother, father, and children. Can you help pay your share? by money? by hearty cooperation in the home?

THRIFT IN EARNING AND PRODUCING

Boys or girls who begin by helping with useful tasks at home are real producers who are earning part of their own and the family's living.

The boy or girl who earns money in an agricultural or home economics club, by poultry or pig keeping, gardening, or canning, or who carries out home projects through the vocational school, is also helping. Such enterprises must not interfere with school work or good physical development, for these will increase the earning power and happiness later in life.

To general schooling should be added special training in a chosen line of work. This will increase one's usefulness and earning power, since pay goes to ability, skill, and experience.

The Boys and Girls Club Work in agriculture and home economics as carried on cooperatively by the State colleges of agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture teaches club members how to do useful, profitable work of many kinds. Join the club in your community that interests you the most and become a producer. If there is no club, write your State college of agriculture and ask about clubs.

THRIFT IN SPENDING

Wise spending secures the best possible maintenance and progress for a family or an individual at the least cost; it is the measure of right living.

Who makes the standards that decide your spending for recreation, for clothes, and for all the rest, you yourself, or boy and girl friends whose parents have larger incomes than yours? Spending in accordance with reasonable standards, adopted on your own best judgment, rather than blind following of others' extravagance, helps to secure a happy and successful life.

For wise spending make plans, studying what you need and what you can do without. Learn about the things for which you will spend money all your life, such as the value of different kinds of foods, of cotton and woolen clothes, and of all sorts of house furnishings. It is easy to get this information from thrift leaflets and other free Government publications, from special books, and from magazine articles.

Risk your own judgment and learn by experience. Be independent, and as your earnings increase pay part of your cost of support to your parents; in time, pay it completely, or if they do not want to accept it, quietly put it away as a special fund for them or for something which you can all share.

THRIFT IN SAVING AND INVESTING

The boy or girl who is wise saves money for a definite goal—for a better education, and for the start in life on the farm, or in business. The schools and colleges can give you an estimate of the cost of your education. Someone who is in a vocation which interests you can tell you what is needed for a start in it.

The wise person also saves for unknown goals—to meet any emergency such as sickness or accident; to be ready for the opportunity that one can seize only if one has money; to build up a money reserve, which, like the reserves of an army, is always ready to save the day.

The rule of successful saving is: to save regularly and systematically; to save part of all money you receive, by gift or earning; to set aside the part dedicated to saving before you spend at all. Also save when you spend; that is, forego an occasional pleasure or indulgence, and add what it would have cost to your savings fund. Such action will stiffen your will and make you a real person. When you get a regular income dedicate a definite part of it to saving.

Place your savings at once where they are safe—safe from your spending and from loss. A United States Thrift Stamp will guard every quarter saved. As soon as possible put your savings where they will grow by interest; the U. S. War Savings Stamp pays 4 per cent interest, compounded quarterly. You can cash it if needed, but you always get interest.

Invest also in some productive enterprise—better seed, pure-bred poultry and livestock, canning equipment—where the increase in value will make your money grow. Reinvest your profit in Government securities, or in your business. When interest on Liberty Bonds or other investments is received, reinvest it immediately, perhaps in War Savings Stamps. Learn early that money well invested creates more money and works for you day and night, uncomplainingly.

Do not let the promise of large profits tempt you into speculation or questionable investments. Government securities are safe. So is land near your own home which you can cultivate profitably; get advice from your club leaders.

Giving expresses the natural desire to show one's friendship or esteem or to help others. Thought put into choosing a gift which will be useful and appropriate, as well as beautiful, not merely costly, will increase its value to the person who receives it. The helpfulness of gifts to the church, the Y. M. C. A., the Red Cross, to relief societies, or to needy persons often depends on the active interest one takes in the organization or the person as much as on the money given. Many think that one-tenth of one's money is not too much to devote to others.

SPEND WISELY



SAVE SANELY

THRIFT IN KEEPING RECORDS

Written records of money will help any boy or girl to get more satisfaction from it. A very simple memorandum book may be used, putting entries of money received in one column, and those of money saved and spent in another. Every month, this record should be reviewed and summarized in some such table as that shown below. The number and names of the columns may be changed to suit one's own needs, and entered in a blank book.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF MONEY RECEIVED, SAVED, SPENT

Month	Receipts			Saved		Expenditures	
	Earnings	Profits from project	Gifts	W. S. S. Liberty Bond payments	Other savings	Clothing	School misc. gifts
Jan.							
Total for year							

N. B.—In such a record only the profits of a project such as pig raising or canning should be entered. Separate records for the project are available at the State College of Agriculture.

A boy or girl will understand better how to value and manage property, if once a year a list is made of everything he or she owns; if the actual value of such things as clothing, and the furniture in one's own room, is not known, it may be estimated. Investments like War Savings Stamps that increase in value each year, and livestock should be listed at their present value. The total should be added up, and its increase from year to year watched.

ANNUAL INVENTORY OF PROPERTY OWNED, MONEY, ETC.

Items—Values in	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
Money in hand or bank.....	\$.....	\$.....	\$.....	\$.....	\$.....
W. S. S. owned.....					
Liberty bonds owned.....					
Value of animals owned.....					
Value of equipment owned.....					
Value of land owned.....					
Value of personal clothing.....					
Value of furnishings of my room.....					
Total value.....	\$.....	\$.....	\$.....	\$.....	\$.....

Get the habit of keeping careful track of everything you own; it will help to increase your property and teach you business methods.

THEN BUY WAR



SAVINGS STAMPS