

CORE ESSENTIALS



7 TIPS TO BOOST YOUR CREDIT

You've likely made resolutions for the New Year. Do they include your financial wellness? We recommend taking time to review your credit report and using these tips to boost your borrowing power.

PAY YOUR BILLS ON TIME, EVERY TIME

"On time" means the company receives your payment by the day the bill is due. Schedule recurring payments or create a calendar reminder to not miss a payment. Late or missing payments can have a negative impact on your credit. Consistency is key.

WATCH YOUR CREDIT LIMIT

Credit scores consider how close you are to being "maxed out" on credit cards. Keep your balance significantly lower than your credit limit for a healthier score.

SPREAD OUT CREDIT APPLICATIONS

Don't apply for too much credit in a short period of time. Your credit score may go down if you apply for or open new accounts too frequently.

PAY OFF YOUR MONTHLY BALANCE

Using your credit card regularly can help you build credit—just make sure you're paying off the monthly balance in full. Paying off the balance each month can build better credit than carrying a balance, and it helps you avoid finance charges.

KEEP IT UP

Credit scores are based on your overall history of making payments on loans and other bills. The longer you work toward building credit, the more information there is to calculate your credit risk.

KEEP OLD ACCOUNTS OPEN

Got an old credit card? Don't close the account. Doing so may impact your credit utilization ratio and mix of credit accounts. It also could shorten the length of your credit history and negatively impact your credit score.

CHECK YOUR CREDIT REPORTS

You can request one free credit report from each of the three major credit bureaus each year. It's important to review your reports for inaccurate or fraudulent information, as that could bring your score down. To report an error, file a dispute with both the credit reporting company and the company the information was sourced from.

As you look to borrow this year, remember to consider how your credit score will be impacted. Credit doesn't have to be scary. Take advantage of our free financial coaching services to review your credit and visit merituscu.net when you're ready to borrow.



TEACHER GRANTS ARE BACK!

We are excited to announce that our teacher grants program is returning for Spring 2024. The online application will be available Tuesday, January 16, 2024.

HOW IT WORKS

A total of 10 \$250 grants will be awarded.¹ Funds received from this grant may go towards purchasing classroom materials, positive behavior incentives, classroom makeovers or other related items or projects to impact student success. Awards are paid directly to the schools.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must be current teachers at schools located in our service area (Acadia, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Martin and Vermilion parishes).

HOW TO APPLY

Visit merituscu.net/teachergrants to learn more and apply. Application deadline is Friday, February 16, 2024. Grant recipients will be contacted and announced on our website, Facebook and Instagram.



SCHOLARSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE

This year, we are celebrating 20 years of providing scholarships to our members. We are delighted to once again offer scholarship opportunities for members to support their continuing education.

MERITUS CREDIT UNION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

We are offering a total of \$12,000 in scholarships to eligible, graduating high school seniors who are members of Meritus CU.² Six recipients will be selected, and each will receive a \$2,000 scholarship.

LAFAYETTE CHAPTER OF CREDIT UNIONS SCHOLARSHIP

The Lafayette Chapter of Credit Unions is offering three \$1,000 scholarships to eligible² students from participating credit unions.



ANNUAL MEETING

Our 70th Annual Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 27, 2024. The annual meeting will only be the business portion.

The meeting will be held at 10:00 am in the Main Branch Annex Training Room at 515 Guilbeau Road in Lafayette. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by Friday, March 8, 2024 to communications@merituscu.net or by calling us at 337.989.2800 ext 340.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

THE BEST DAY EVER

We surprised over 150 children at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Acadiana – Jackie Club with a 'Best Day Ever' event. The celebration featured tons of fun, including epic bubbles, treats, games, music and more!

Adding to the excitement, Meritus Credit Union surprised the Jackie Club by granting them their wish list of needs including activity tables, games and supplies to create memories for years to come.

We hope this event inspires the children to complete their own acts of kindness in our community.

GIVING BACK

We're thankful for the opportunity to give back to our community. Below are highlights from Fall 2023.

- Employees contributed over \$15,500 with our annual United Way of Acadiana LIVE UNITED campaign.
- Sponsored the Downtown Lafayette Merry & Bright Christmas Carnival and offered free ornament making to over 400 kids.
- Employees granted Christmas wishes for 30 children in our community through the Salvation Army Angel Tree program.

Learn more about how we're investing in our communities by following @merituscu on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.



NEWS & EVENTS

NICOLE PATIN

Nicole joins our staff as Administrative Assistant. She is a UL Lafayette graduate and loves spending time with her kids. She enjoys camping, fishing and photography in her spare time.



CHELSEA LAPOINTE

Chelsea joins us as a teller at Main Branch in Lafayette. She is also an alumnus of UL Lafayette and enjoys table-top and card games, reading and paracord weaving.



WISE KIDS WEDNESDAY

There's still time to catch us on KADN News 15 for Wise Kids Wednesday! Set reminders to tune in around 8:00 am for fun savings tips and activities for youth of all ages! Watch live or via livestream at kadn.com.

Wednesday, January 3

Wednesday, February 7

Visit merituscu.net/wisekidswednesday for the activities and resources covered each month and to learn more.



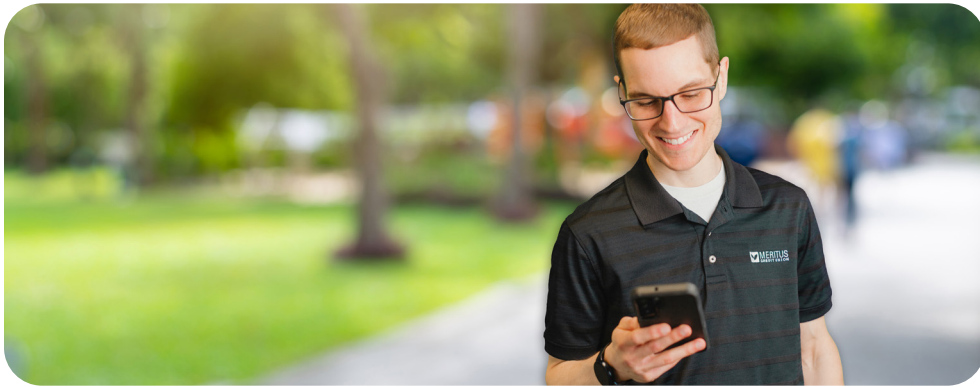
Wise Kids

WEDNESDAY



CHA-CHING IN THE NEW YEAR

Start your year with a low rate credit card. Let us help you keep more of your money where it belongs—in your wallet. Apply for our Meritus CU Platinum Visa® credit card with one of the lowest rates around and a low everyday purchase rate. Enjoy no annual fee, no balance-transfer fees and no cash-advance fees.



YOUR CREDIT UNION, WHEREVER YOU GO

Opening an account, applying for a loan and managing your accounts and cards is fast and easy with the free Meritus CU mobile app. Visit merituscu.net/digitalbanking to learn more or download our mobile app in the App Store® or on Google Play™.

FEATURED SAVINGS & LOAN RATES

AUTO LOANS 5.00% AS LOW AS 5.00% APR ³ FOR 60 MONTHS	HOME EQUITY (HELOC) 4.00% AS LOW AS 4.00% APR ⁴ FOR 120 MONTHS	KASASA CASH® CHECKING 4.00% 4.00% APY ON BALANCES UP TO & INCLUDING \$15,000 ⁵
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For more information about all of our rates and loan products, contact us today at 866.989.2800 or merituscu.net.

¹Visit merituscu.net/teachergrants for terms and conditions. Grant recipients must use grant funds solely for the purpose described in their application. ²Immediate family members of current Meritus Credit Union Board of Directors, Supervisory Committee Members, and current employees are not eligible for the scholarship. For additional eligibility requirements, please visit merituscu.net/scholarships. ³Listed APRs assume excellent credit rating. Minimum and maximum loan amounts or credit limits apply. Your APR may differ based on your loan amount, repayment method and other factors. All rates as of 11/29/2023 and are subject to change. Visit merituscu.net for current rates. ⁴There are some third-party fees associated with opening this plan. Meritus Credit Union will waive these fees on an initial advance of \$10,000 or more. Fees generally range from \$100.00 to \$600.00. Early payoff (less than three years) requires repayment of fees. Adequate property insurance must be maintained. ⁵With qualifications met; APY=Annual Percentage Yield. APY is for balances up to and including \$15,000. APY accurate as of 1/1/2023. Rates are subject to change after account opening. \$25 minimum deposit is required to open the account. Enrollment in electronic services (e.g. online banking, eStatements) and log-ons may be required to meet some qualifications. Limit of one (1) account per social security number. Contact a Meritus CU representative for additional information, details, restrictions, reward calculations, processing limitations, cycle dates and enrollment instructions. Apple and the Apple Logo are trademarks of Apple Inc. Google Play is a trademark of Google LLC.

CONNECT

LAFAYETTE BRANCH

515 Guilbeau Road | Lafayette, LA 70506

Lobby

Monday - Friday | 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Drive-Thru

Monday - Thursday | 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Friday & LPSS Paydays | 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

Contact Numbers

Phone 337.989.2800 | Fax 337.989.2816
Toll Free 866.989.2800

CARENCRO BRANCH

724 Veterans Drive | Carencro, LA 70520

Lobby

Monday - Friday | 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Drive-Thru

Monday - Thursday | 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Friday & LPSS Paydays | 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

Contact Numbers

Phone 337.896.2900 | Fax 337.896.9200

ACADIA BRANCH

331 Odd Fellows Road | Crowley, LA 70526

Lobby

Monday - Friday | 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Drive-Thru

Monday - Thursday | 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Friday & APSB Paydays | 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

Contact Numbers

Phone 337.785.0810 | Fax 337.785.0201

IBERIA BRANCH

1101 Parkview Drive | New Iberia, LA 70563

Lobby

Monday - Friday | 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Drive-Thru

Monday - Thursday | 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Friday & IPSB Paydays | 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

Contact Numbers

Phone 337.335.1100 | Fax 337.335.1103

BONJOUR TELEPHONE BANKING

800.291.3867

ONLINE & MOBILE BANKING

www.merituscu.net

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Monday, January 15 - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Tuesday, February 13 - Mardi Gras
Friday, March 29 - Good Friday/Easter



MERITUS®
CREDIT UNION



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by NCUA



Equal Housing
Lender



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