

Lourdes Shop & Earn

FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

Question: What is Lourdes Shop & Earn?

Answer: When you purchase gift certificates that are used just like cash. Think of it as buying gift certificates for yourself! The certificates are issued by the national and local retailers where our families already shop. Because the certificates are purchased with cash up front, the participating retailers offer a substantial discount. This discount provides the funds that help make tuition affordable at our school. The funds go into the accounts you designated on your enrollment for which included options of 1) The OLL Grade School operating budget, 2) tuition accounts for children at OLL or SFBRRHS, or 3) Our Lady of Lourdes St. Bernadette's Purse Tuition Assistance Program.

Question: How can Shop & Earn generate a significant revenue for our parish?

Answer: The reason for the effectiveness of scrip is simple: families generate revenue through purchases they would make anyway. Groceries, clothing, toys, gifts, even gasoline can be purchased with Shop & Earn gift certificates. An organization the size of our day school school families (150 families) easily spends between one and two million dollars per year on food, clothing and other essentials. If these families use scrip for these purchases, they can raise as much as \$40,000 to \$80,000 per year for their organization --without spending an additional penny. And at OLL, Shop & Earn is a parish wide program, so we have an additional 450 active families who can participate!

Question: Does it cost a family anything to participate? Do they have to sell anything?

Answer: There are no membership fees or application fees. Families simply buy the gift certificates they want. The beauty of the scrip concept lies in the fact that your organization members raise money for your organization by using their existing household shopping budget. Some families may enlist relatives, friends and neighbors to buy scrip. But unlike other fundraising programs, scrip families do not have to "sell" anything to raise money for their organization.

Question: How much revenue do we earn from retailers?

Answer: Scrip discounts range from 1% to 25%. As a general rule, however, about five percent of your family's purchases will be returned to your organization as revenue.

Question: But why do the retailers participate . . . what's in it for them?

Answer: Retailers like Scrip, too. Families who purchase scrip certificates actively support the retailers who participate in this program. The reason is simple... they know that buying from a scrip participating retailer provides a steady source of revenue for their church, school, or non-profit organization. The retailers get cash up front for the gift certificates, and get free advertising on the order form to all the prospective families who may participate.

Question: So how does the Schnuck's Escrip Program work?

Answer: For Schnuck's Escrip, you enroll with Schnuck's once up front and then use the same card each time you shop. Schnuck's gives a discount back based on your purchases and it is deposited into the accounts as you have designated on your Lourdes Shop & Earn enrollment form.

Question: When can I place an order?

Answer: You can place an order any time by turning it in at the school office. Volunteers are also available at church before and after weekend Masses on Saturday evenings and Sundays. All orders received will be consolidated on Monday mornings at 8:30am and Shop & Earn certificates will be ordered to fill them. Your order will be ready to pick up the following weekend.

Question: When can I pick up my order?

Answer: You can pick up your order at church before and after weekend Masses on Saturday evenings and Sundays. You can also pick up your order at school on Monday morning at school between 7:30 and 10am. We are currently looking for volunteers to add a Friday afternoon pickup.