



Money Management • Cadettes Badge Blueprint



Budgeting Badge

Purpose: This badge teaches Cadettes to keep track of money, save for needs and wants, and help others by giving.

Step 1: Practice investing in what you love.

Your money can be grouped into three different categories: spending, saving and giving. Make three lists: everything you spend money on, things you'd like to have or do, and causes you'd like to give money to. Take a look at your lists. Are you spending money on things you love? If you are interested in music, are you investing in piano or voice lessons? After you have your list, compare your investments with your fellow Cadettes. See what they are investing in and you will see what they love!

Step 2: Learn to track your spending.

Maintaining a budget means you need to know where your money is going. What better way to do that than to track your spending. In a small notebook, write down every penny you spend for several weeks. Make sure to analyze your spending patterns. Do you spend all your money on food, entertainment, clothing or something else? If you are saving for something, is there an unnecessary expense you can cut out to save even more?

Make it interesting. With help from an adult, create realistic flash cards to see how others spend and budget their money. On one card, put an activity or product, and on the matching card, put the price. For example: Fill up the car with gas, \$35. Try to match the activity or product to the price. Have a discussion on how prices can fluctuate and affect families' budgets.

Step 3: Find out about ways to save money.

Piggy banks are great, but the best way to start saving money is in a bank account. Set up an appointment with your local bank or credit union to talk to the teller about the advantages of checking and savings accounts. What is the difference between a bank and a credit union? Great question! Look it up and see what you find! Can't get to a bank? Ask an adult how a checking and/or a savings account has helped them.

Step 4: Explore different ways to give.

It is always important to remember those who are less fortunate. Donating money to a worthy non-profit organization is a great way to help others in need. Ask yourself, what is important to me? What is close to my heart? How do I want to help? Who do I want to help? Let's say that you want to help local families that may not have enough to eat. Research local foodbanks in your area and see how you can help. Ask to see how your donation might help your community.

Step 5 on next page.

Step 5: Create a budget that focuses on your values.

Now that you've researched and explored different options, it is time to make your official budget! The biggest advantage of having a budget is that you can see what you're spending, what you're saving for and where you are giving back.

Think of something you would like to save for. Then, do the math! How long will it take to save for this item, make a chart and stick to it? You'll have the money in no time!

	Spend	Save	Give
Budget 1	\$90 dress	\$0	\$10 to United Way
Budget 2	\$50 concert tickets	\$25 gift for best friend's birthday	\$25 to local animal shelter
Budget 3	\$30 ice skating lessons	\$60 for future trip to look at colleges	\$10 to local food bank
Your Budget			

Congratulations! You have now earned the Budgeting Badge!

Remember, girls gain confidence and leadership skills through girl-led activities. Whenever possible, let the girls take charge when completing activities. Adult help is necessary for guidance, support and safety.