

Just for teens at RCU | Winter 2021

### 1. Save Cash Gifts Instead of Spending

The holidays have come and gone, and you may have received money! Instead of spending it, make a promise to yourself to put all of it—or 80%—directly into your college savings account. Continue this practice throughout the year anytime you receive money and watch your savings account grow.

### 2. Look for Scholarship Competitions

Search your local organizations, church, school, and sports centers for scholarship competitions. Sometimes you need to write an essay or create a piece of artwork, but it's worth it. You could win serious money for your college fund. The more creative you are, the more likely you are to win!

### 3. Set a Goal

Decide how much you want to save exclusively for college over the next 12 months. \$500? \$1,000? More? The closer you are to heading off to college, the more you should be putting away. Set your goal, and figure out how much you need to save per month throughout the year. Then, decide how you can make it happen. Maybe take on some extra jobs, or sell some of your gently used clothes or electronics that you no longer need.

## Saving for College Great Ways to Boost Your College Savings

After spending money on holidays, birthdays, and general expenses, saving for college may be the last thing on your mind. But it's never too early to start saving. Even a small amount will add up over time. As more money becomes available to you—maybe through a part-time job—you can increase your savings goals. Here are some ways you can start saving for college now.

### 4. Ask for Advice

Your school guidance center should have resources to help you find extra money for college. They may have scholarship lists, grant resources, or internship opportunities. Asking for help is the best way to fast-track a savings plan. It shows you're serious about college and your financial future.

### 5. Don't Touch It

Once you start saving, leave it! Commit to yourself that no matter what you may want to spend money on, your college savings are untouchable. If you're tempted, just tell yourself this will give you more cushion to work less and enjoy college life more.

## #MEME4COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP CHALLENGE

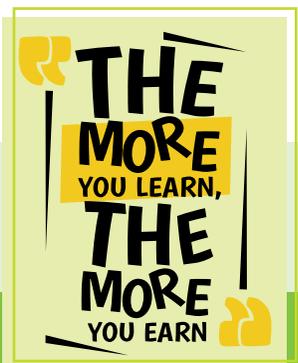
Enter the Elements of Money Meme for College Scholarship Challenge. Four winners will win up to **\$2,000 in scholarships**.

Higher education is expensive. We want to help you out! This year's challenge asks you to think about time travel.

*If you could travel back in time to visit your elementary-school self, what age would you go back to, and what ONE piece of advice would you give?*

#### DETAILS:

1. Think about your answer and create a meme or GIF.
2. Log on to your Instagram account and follow @elementsofmoney.
3. Post the meme, tag @elementsofmoney, and use #Meme4College.



**1<sup>ST</sup> PRIZE: \$1,000    2<sup>ND</sup> PRIZE: \$500    3<sup>RD</sup> PRIZE: \$300    4<sup>TH</sup> PRIZE: \$200**

Contest runs from 1/28/21 thru 3/25/21

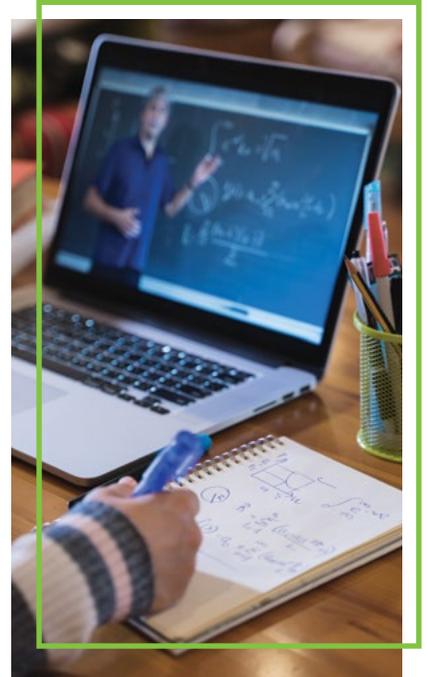
# Setting Up the Perfect Remote Learning Center

Now that we're a few months into the school year, you probably already have a learning space set up, but is it optimal for learning and productivity? Below are some tips for creating your own custom remote learning center.

**Is it functional?** Make sure you have room for your computer, books, and a place to write. A strong internet connection and updated software on your computer are also a must. Keep your school's IT or help desk contact information close to your computer just in case.

**Is it comfortable?** You probably can't do remote learning from a lounge chair, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't be comfy. If you're usually cold, keep soft blankets or a sweater nearby, or if your temperature runs hot, grab a portable fan. Don't forget to consider lighting—natural or electric—and how the lighting may change throughout the day. Reduce glares by closing blinds or using other window coverings.

**Is it organized?** To be as productive as possible, you need to be organized. That means being able to quickly find your work, supplies, and other materials. Figure out a system to keep your space organized and tidy. You can find fun DIY organizational projects on [pinterest.com/redwoodcu](https://www.pinterest.com/redwoodcu) to give your area a personal touch. You should also have a calendar system so all your classes, logins, due dates, and worklists are handy and up to date.



## Getting to Know FAFSA



Are you ready to start college? Have you decided where you want to go? No matter what you decide, don't miss out on financial aid opportunities. Every year, universities, organizations, private companies, and the federal government provide grants, scholarships, and loans to college students just like you. Finding those opportunities may sound like a lot of work. The FAFSA, the U.S. Department of Education's Free Application for Federal Student Aid, is a great place to start. To receive federal money for college, including scholarships, grants, and federal loans, you must fill out an application.

You can apply online at [studentaid.ed.gov/sa/afsa](https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/afsa) and should do so as soon as you decide you will be attending college. Check the website for deadlines. You'll need your family's income information, so be ready to ask them for help.

You'll also need other information, such as social security and government ID numbers, and information about the school you plan to attend. You'll need to re-apply every year after, so be sure to save your personal identification number (PIN) somewhere safe.

After your application is processed, you'll receive a report about your financial aid eligibility. FAFSA also provides the information to your college's financial aid office. From there, they'll prepare a financial aid package for you that explains the different aid options you qualify for and how to apply for them. Remember, some types of aid have deadlines or limited availability—so apply early!

While the FAFSA process may seem daunting, it's essential for securing financial aid for college. Check with your school, college financial aid office, and local area union for help and advice for selecting the best package for your future.

### UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

RCU will be closed on the following dates:

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 18
- Presidents Day, February 15

Remember, you can access your account online or with our mobile app 24/7/365!

**Annual Meeting** Join us Thursday, **April 29, 2021**, for the RCU annual meeting. This year, our meeting will be held virtually, so link information will be sent out in early April!



powered by



Redwood Credit Union | FOR ALL THAT YOU LOVE.

1 (800) 479-7928 | [redwoodcu.org](https://www.redwoodcu.org)

