

# Conway woman offers classes on coupons, online savings

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While Congress has negotiated and finally passed a \$700 billion bailout package aimed at helping some of the nation's biggest lenders, many across the country have been struggling with the economical crunch of higher prices on everyday items.

And, while there is no direct federal bailout for the households on Main Street, an area woman is trying to teach others how they can be smarter shoppers and save money when they go into the store for groceries and other everyday items.

Alicia Myers makes a presentation to a recent class about how to save money through clipping coupons and making purchases through the Internet. Myers' next local class will be Monday, Oct. 13, at Ziggie's Cafe in Marshfield.

Alicia Myers, of Conway, has taken her knowledge about coupon clipping and is starting to teach others about "the gateway to saving."

She is presently offering classes for individuals to learn about coupon clipping, and she is even offering a class on how to save on your Christmas shopping.

Myers began her in-depth bargain shopping techniques four years ago, while being a stay-at-home mom. "I stayed home for a while, and the longer I was there the tighter our budget became," she explained.

Soon she was navigating the Internet to secure savings at local stores and learning how to shop more effectively by using coupons. Through coupons and finding online deals, Myers watched as her savings increased and the amount spent on trips to the store got smaller.

Myers said, "I have been able to stockpile items that I will need in the future, and we have started to save on gas, as we are not making needless trips to the store all the time."

Myers, who lives in a household of four, has watched as the household spending has gotten down to around \$10 a week on the grocery bill.



Along with her coupon savings, she has also learned to shop smart online, finding many retail stores who have discounted prices for those who buy items via the Internet. Myers said a very helpful Web site is <http://www.gatewaytosaving.com>, and there she highlights an area where you can view coupons and discounts being offered by many retailers.

“I have been overwhelmed by the response to my classes,” Myers said of the classes she has started to share coupon clipping and saving tips. “Often I have had to turn people away. I never dreamed that I would be shopping for a living, and I have enjoyed teaching others about savings. Currently, there are 318 billion coupons issued a year, and of that only three billion are ever redeemed. People are really missing out on the savings and with today’s economy, who can afford to miss out on savings,” she explained.

Currently, Myers offers three classes: coupons, advance coupons and Christmas and online shopping. She is even offering courses at the Lebanon Technical and Career Center and has already offered the courses to private groups and in local venues. A course listing is available on her Web site and the next local class to be offered will be at Ziggy’s Cafe in Marshfield on Monday, Oct. 13, from 6 to 8 p.m. The first 15 to arrive will receive a free coupon organizer. Advance registration for the course is a must and a \$15 fee is charged for the class.

“I offered my first class in Conway back in the summer, and I had about 45 people there. They had come as far away as Nixa,” she added.

Myers will also be offering a class on Christmas shopping at Ziggy’s on Tuesday, Oct. 21, from 6 to 8 p.m. and she promises that she can teach you how to save 75 percent on your Christmas budget.

If you would like to register for any of the upcoming classes, send an e-mail to: [classes@gatewaytosaving.com](mailto:classes@gatewaytosaving.com) with your full name and working e-mail address. Also, indicate in the e-mail which class you are interested in and your e-mail will be answered in a timely manner.

“I am glad that I am able to offer this experience. I have become a go-to person on value shopping and I really enjoy shopping,” she said.

Myers also offers a forum area on her Web site, which allows shoppers to compare experiences and shopping advice and secrets.