

ROOTS

**MIDWEST
AMERICA**
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION®

a newsletter exclusively for 13-17 year olds in Growing Up MidWest

Fall 2023

Celebrate the Holiday Season with MidWest America



Fantasy of Lights is a Northeast Indiana Christmas tradition and we want to give your family the opportunity to see this year's outdoor display for free! The personal vehicle price is normally \$15, but we are offering **one pass** to each Growing Up MidWest family at **no charge**.

This 2-mile route through Fort Wayne's Franke Park has something new to see each year. There will be 10 additional displays for the 2023 season. Fantasy of Lights is open nightly through December 31st, so you can pick the best night for you to see the amazing light displays.

Each family that signs up for their free pass will automatically be entered to win a **Cozy Night at Home Gift Basket** filled with all the makings for a fun evening at home with the family! You can receive a **BONUS** entry in the drawing if you can name either of the long-time MidWest America sponsored light displays at the Fantasy of Lights. You may provide either the name of the Christmas movie it highlights or provide a description of a key feature from the display.

Hurry, this offer is only available to the first 100 Growing Up MidWest members and their families. **To reserve your pass, have your parent or guardian call our Marketing Department at 260-482-3334 ext. 1014 or toll-free at 800-348-4738 ext. 1014. You will need to indicate the MidWest America branch where you would like to pick up your pass. All reservations for Fantasy of Lights passes must be made by Friday, December 8th.**

**GROWING
UP
MIDWEST**

Just for Laughs

Q. Why did the football team go to the credit union in the fall?

A. To get their quarterback!



Q. What do you call a small pepper in the late fall?

A. A little chili!



Share Certificate

Share cer·tif·i·cate | *noun*

Start saving today! A certificate account earns dividends based on the opening balance and term invested. It allows you to earn higher dividends on larger account balances that are deposited for longer time periods.

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT CRYPTO

Should you get in on it? Is it legit? Let's dig into this mysterious new form of money.

Cryptocurrencies like bitcoin, ethereum and dogecoin have emerged in recent years, causing a whirlwind of confusion. Whether you're a seasoned investor or just beginning to explore, this new digital realm can be perplexing.

8 Things You Should Know

What is cryptocurrency? Cryptocurrency is a digital or virtual form of currency that uses cryptography for security. It is designed to work as a medium of exchange, just like traditional currencies such as the U.S. dollar. Unlike traditional currencies issued and regulated by central banks, cryptocurrencies operate on decentralized networks.

What is bitcoin? Bitcoin is the first and most well-known cryptocurrency. It operates on a peer-to-peer network, meaning that transactions can be conducted directly between users without the need for intermediaries such as credit unions or banks.

How can you use cryptocurrency? Cryptocurrency can be used to purchase goods and services, just as you'd use physical money. While not universal, a few major brands do accept bitcoin as a legitimate source of funds. Examples include: Wikimedia, AT&T and Microsoft. You can also invest in cryptocurrency, which means you are using it to potentially make money.

Why would you want to invest in cryptocurrency? The purpose of investing in anything is to make money. There is an opportunity to make money with cryptocurrency; however, there is also a risk that you will lose money.

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Is your money protected when it's in cryptocurrency?

The level of protection for your money when it's in cryptocurrency is dependent on several factors. Security measures: cryptocurrencies use cryptographic techniques and secure protocols to protect transactions and holdings but it's crucial to ensure that you take appropriate security measures on your end. Decentralization: cryptocurrencies operate on decentralized networks, which can make them less susceptible to certain types of attacks or manipulation. Risk of hacks and scams: the ecosystem surrounding cryptocurrencies can be vulnerable to hacks, scams and fraud. It's crucial to choose reputable and secure cryptocurrency exchanges, and to employ best practices to protect your funds. In the United States, the federal government regulates credit unions and banks. In contrast, money held in cryptocurrencies is not covered by the federal government whatsoever.

Is investing in cryptocurrency wise, then? That's for you to discuss with your trusted financial planner. However, always remember that the crypto market can be very volatile. It's important that you understand what you're investing in, and even more crucial that you understand the associated risks.

Can I convert cryptocurrency into cash? Yes, this is done through a virtual wallet. Just like the traditional wallet you carry around, the virtual version holds your money, only digitally. To convert your funds to cash, you can add your traditional real-life bank account to your wallet.

Do you have to claim your cryptocurrency on your taxes? Yes, you do. In the United States, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) treats cryptocurrencies as property, rather than as currency, and general tax principles that are applicable to property transactions apply to transactions using cryptocurrency.



Cryptocurrency will likely increase in popularity as more people explore this investment option. As with all your investments, do the research and consider working with a professional so that your money can grow for you while you get a good night's sleep!