

Tips and Tricks from Frequent Users

1. Is the sign up process difficult? How long does it take?

(caveat! The PrestoPay sign up process has been streamlined since our program started last year! No more waiting for your bank to show the 2 small deposits for verification, no more verification codes to email to the coordinator for final authorization; PrestoPay is now instantaneous verification for most banks except credit unions)

- *it is super easy to sign up*
- *I don't think the sign up process was difficult at all. It took maybe 20 minutes? But that includes some browsing through the gift cards that are offered.*
- *The process was simple, it took a day or two total from the initial time I emailed you to have it functioning on my laptop. I did have a delay in getting the app set up in our iPhones, but that was a problem that IT at Scrip had to fix on their end.*

2. Do you use MyScripWallet to buy e-gift cards in real time (eg. while at the restaurant, while in the checkout line, while doing online purchasing)?

- *I buy real time e cards - just used Red Robin and Old Navy today*
- *Almost all of my purchases are real time, especially at restaurants where the return is pretty good (about 8% on average). It takes about 5 minutes to sign on, find the vendor, enter the amount, and submit your purchase. It takes another few minutes for it to show up in your wallet. So start to finish maybe 10 mins.*
- *Yes. I usually try to check to see if the store/restaurant I am going to has an ecard available beforehand.*

3. If yes to #2, how easy is it to pay for products/services in real time? Are there any challenges?

- *Most places are used to it. Some require a manager override but even the places that have never seen this figure it out pretty quickly. Some places with a kiosk on the table you can enter it yourself (Applebees for one). Ask the server to show you how the first time.*
- *Some e-cards say you need to bring a printed version to the store (i.e. Staples, CVS). **In most cases this is not the case and the store will honor the code from your phone.***
- *Usually I forget, but on the couple of occasions when I did remember, it took me too long to log in & such. At the outlets my cell signal is so bad inside the stores it takes forever or doesn't work at all. That's not the fault of the scrip program but I didn't want to hold up the line in order to purchase the scrip.*
- *The main problem I have had is internet connectivity in stores. In some stores, it takes a lot longer to load the app and get the wallet to appear. **It is helpful to have it open and ready to go before walking in to the store.** If there is a line behind me, people don't like to wait for me to pay this way. I learned that at Staples back to school shopping. **If the store is crowded, I will guess at the amount and buy the ecard before getting in line.***

4. Do you purchase physical cards?

- *Occasionally. if there are deals going on*
- *Sometimes*
- *Yes. I have identified places like Wawa, Giant and a couple of drug stores that I use frequently. These places only offer physical gift cards. I also like to use the scrip site to purchase gift cards I will be giving as gifts and much, much prefer physical gift cards for that.*

5. If yes to #4, are there any challenges with ordering the physical cards?

- No
- *Waiting to get them*
- *Just that you have to wait for them to arrive*
- *I spend the most in Scrip at Giant, and they only offer physical gift cards. So unless you can spend a lot of money up front for several weeks worth of groceries, you will need to order and pick up cards weekly, which is a nuisance for all involved.*
 - *Follow up on this response: the options to offer physical, ecards and reloadable cards are at the sole discretion of the vendor; we place weekly orders for physical cards and it's not a nuisance for the coordinator (the benefits outweigh the bit of extra work involved)*

6. If you do both MyScripWallet and physical gift cards, please give an approximate % of your monthly ordering (eg. 90% e-gift cards / 10% physical gift cards)

- *Almost 100% e-gift*
- *90% physical gift cards, 10% ecards*
- *Because of groceries at Giant, it is 75% physical gift cards and 25% electronic. I would prefer all electronic unless I am giving them as a gift.*

7. Do you plan your weekly/monthly spend and scrip orders ahead of time or are you more a spontaneous shopper?

- *spontaneous shopper, but always look at script before purchase*
- *Spontaneous*
- *I like to get the % sale ones, if I can use them*
- *I have identified stores that I use frequently and keep a supply of gift cards from those stores on hand. So more spontaneous I guess, unless I am buying for gifts.*
- *For my routine purchases that I know are physical cards, it is planned ahead of time. This is Giant, Wawa, Dairy Queen, and Wendys. Most of my non-grocery shopping is online though, so it is simple enough to always order an eScrip before finalizing the purchase.*
- *When deciding where to purchase something (eg. A gift) I will look first at the vendors in scrip and see who has the best rebate then shop there. I never make a purchase without using a gift card if at all possible*

8. Are you tracking how much you've saved each month? If yes, are you willing to share how much you've saved to date?

- *Not really, but I just ran the report and it shows I earned about \$70 since Jan 1 (that's taking 60% of the total earnings since SFMA get's 40%)*
- *I started purchasing in May and since then I have saved a little less than \$30. I know that's not a lot, **but I have not purchased anything that I would not normally have purchased so I consider it "free money".***
- *No. I just ran a report for the first time to see earnings. In the 3 months I have used Scrip, I have saved \$145.95 (~\$50/month).*
- *Yes! In one year with the program, I've saved over a \$1000 into my SPA and contributed more than \$700 to SFMA - all while doing my usual shopping (no extra spend involved!)*

9. Are there any other tips/tricks you want to share?

- *I would say make sure you check to see if it is a print card or one you can use from your phone. For example, CVS and Charming Charlie or print cards.*
 - *Coordinator add on note: I NEVER print e-cards. I have always been successful with the gentle but forceful persuasion method of suggestion that the cashier can surely scan the bar code or type in the gift card numbers. Works every time (although there is one cashier at the Royersford CVS who insists on checking with the manager every. single. time. But the manager always agrees.*
- *Look for the specials - sometimes your favorite places have extra bonuses.*
- *Old Navy has really good rebates.*
- *Use a password app so you don't have to remember your password when you are checking out.*
- ***Log in when you get somewhere to see if they are in the app, or when deciding where to go.***
- ***Don't forget to check your balances on old cards. Most e-cards will update in the app. Use the left over money next time. The servers don't mind entering multiple cards.***
- ***You can add the tip to the e-card.***
- ***Just that my strategy is to identify the stores that I use a lot anyway and buy gift cards for those stores - for me it is Wawa, Giant and Amazon. Also things like that I would like to give as gifts such as iTunes. Since I am spending the money anyway, I figure I might as well buy the gift cards and save. I've also asked close family members to purchase gift cards. In the upcoming year, I hope to maximize the benefit of scrip by using for Christmas gifts - giving and shopping and also planning ahead for trips and vacations.***
- *Not really. It is just a mindset that you need to get used to. You need to make sure you have enough money in the bank account, then learn to check Scrip each and every time.*
- ***For parents going to Disney, even though it says a printed gift card is needed in Disney World, it is not. This past summer, we bought Scrips for food and souvenirs each time we made a purchase within the park and just showed the cashier the barcode from our phones. Scrip cannot be used for parking at Disney however.***
- ***A suggestion for SF would be to start this program earlier. Once a child is in music in 5th grade, some parents know whether their child is going to stick with the program or not. Since no other fundraising is involved in the 5/6 center for music, this is an easy way for parents to start building equity in their children's accounts. I wish I would have known about it to start this 3 years ago when my oldest twins were in 5th grade. At least I was lucky enough to get my younger twins in the program in 5th grade.***