



EXPERIENCE LIFE IN THE FUTURE WITH MAD CITY MONEY

One of our favorite activities to bring to high school classrooms and beyond is Mad City Money, an interactive budgeting simulation where students take on a “new life” including a career, children, and debt! They are challenged to purchase a house, clothes, transportation, home goods and more to get a taste of real life.

Program Description

Mad City Money is a simulation for high school students. Each participant receives an “about me” sheet that contains: an occupation and salary, student loan debt owed, credit card debt owed, and cost of medical insurance. Some participants will have a spouse; some will be single; and some will be single parents.

Participants build a monthly budget based on their incomes. They visit nine merchants in Mad City to purchase housing, transportation, food, day care, and other needs. There’s a mall for wants and a credit union for financial services. The Fickle Finger of Fate randomly visits each participant during the simulation and distributes unexpected windfalls and unplanned expenses.

Each participant will:

- Practice budgeting as an adult with realistic circumstances.
- Identify and experience the consequences of poor decisions.
- Develop good judgment regarding spending and making a budget.
- Understand that budgeting is a necessary step in good money management and that it isn’t difficult.

What we need from you:

- At least ten (10) volunteers to run the Merchant tables
- One (1) hour for set up and 1.5-2 hours for the event.
- To ensure that the students have a strong understanding of the Mad City Money program, we recommend that a CU representative come in an explain the program ahead of time to both students & volunteer merchants.



**Western
New York**
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

CONTACT US TO SET UP YOUR EVENT TODAY!

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