

LCS/ECS SCRIP PROGRAM (T.R.I.P.)

HOW DOES SCRIP (T.R.I.P.) WORK?

- (1) You give the school your money (*Let's use \$100 as an example*)
- (2) LC/EC negotiates with business owners and corporations for a volume discount (either 4% or 10%); LC spends your money to buy your \$100 gift card but only has to pay \$90 or \$96 for the card
- (3) LC/EC gives you that \$100 gift card PLUS returns the \$4 or \$10 bulk discount rebate to your tuition account or to assist other families, whatever you designate.
- (4) Earned rebates are credited to tuition accounts in May and November; but you may also opt to keep your rebates on reserve (which many folks do who don't have children yet attending school) until you choose to use them or donate them to the school or another family.

HOW DO I BUY SCRIP?

Start with an order form. Forms are available at school offices or can be printed from the website:

www.lyncs.org > Choose "Resources" on navigation bar > Click the T.R.I.P. link in the drop-down option.

Note: Each campus has a different order form but parents may buy at either or both campuses. Payment is required with an order; only checks or cash are accepted. Cards cannot be mailed and lost cards cannot be tracked or refunded.

>> ECS & LCS parents/supporters may shop for scrip at either campus.

The **Evergreen campus** operates only during the school year (with a less extensive selection of cards) which can be purchased immediately (most) Tuesdays and Fridays from 8:30-9:00am

The **Lynden campus** operates year-round and has the largest selection of cards and options but requires a 6-day turn-around*. All orders received before the Central Office closes on Wednesdays are ready for pick-up the following Wednesday by 11:00am (or anytime thereafter). Return in person to the Central Office to collect your order, or designate someone to pick-up the cards for you.

**The exception to this rule happens monthly on the 2nd Wednesday night (3:00-7:00pm) at our "Speed Sale Events" where participants can pay for cards and take them immediately. Cards can also be purchased for immediate sale on the 2nd Thursday from 8:00-9:00am.*

COMMON QUESTIONS

"Do the cards expire? Are there limitations or exceptions?"

- Washington State prohibits the expiration of gift cards.
- Gift cards can NOT be used to purchase other gift cards.
- Some retailers may have restrictions as to how many gift cards can be used for online purchases; we recommend you do research prior to a large purchase.
- Gift cards cannot be used to pay off charge card statements; the exception is that the "Kohls Cares for Kids" gift cards we sell can be used in person at Customer Service to pay off a Kohl's charge card balance.
- Safeway honors our gift cards for their lowest "cash price" at the fuel pump; the Lynden location has a designated keypad button outside, the Bellingham location requires a stop in the kiosk first. Safeway cards are also accepted in affiliate stores (Vons, Randalls, Tom Thumb, Genuardi's, etc) and in Canada.
- Fred Meyer cards can be presented to the fuel station attendant as payment; the cards we sell are also recognized in the Kroger chain.
- Starbucks cards can be registered on the Starbucks website and can be used to refill a primary card for loyalty accumulation benefits; our cards can be used internationally.

"How does the Lynden Dollars/Community Cash Back work?"

These are \$10 and \$100 voucher checks accepted at over 80 places in Lynden. When you buy them from LC, you will earn a 4% rebate. The term "Cash Back" is a bit confusing, however;

these check vouchers should really be called “Rebate Back” because no change (cash back) is given when you use them as tender. You must use the \$10 voucher checks for purchases of *at least* \$10; the \$100 voucher checks for purchases of *at least* \$100. You may use multiple voucher checks on a transaction as well as add to them with other forms of payment (cash/credit/debit) to finalize a transaction. The other way to use this “local merchant” part of the program is to request an exact check payable to a merchant instead of buying and using the \$10s and \$100s. On the form there are blank lines for this type of custom check. For example, explain to the Colony House salesperson that you are going to get a custom check from LC for your furniture order. Go to LC and request & pay for the exact amount of that invoice (ex: \$896.14) on the LC order form; a week later, pick up the custom check which will be payable to Colony House and mail it or bring it to the store as tender for that purchase. This way you earn 4% on the **WHOLE** amount, not just on the 8 x \$100 certificates that you could have also used for that purchase. This is great route to take for folks with local charge accounts (Westside VanderGriend Lumber, Ace Hardware) when you know in advance the exact amount of a statement. Or, a recurring request for a specific amount for your commitment to an orthodontist, for example.

“Do you take credit cards?”

No, the costs of processing credit/debit transactions would bankrupt the program.

“Why use gift cards when we get airline miles when we shop with our VISA?”

Think it over: airlines typically award **ONLY** 1% on purchases while TRIP earns 4% - 10%. That’s a much better return! Why not “stash” the value of the tuition dollars you didn’t have to pay in an account designated for travel so you can be free to spend it any way you want without restrictions!

“I don’t see how the limited local spending we do will really add up to much savings.”

Encourage others to buy scrip to help you; most friends, relatives and colleagues are happy to assist your family if they don’t have to go to any special trouble. So...handle their orders and driving for them... and bank their rewards! It’s simple to send via email a Starbucks serial number to reload someone’s existing Starbucks card or an Amazon code for an online purchase. And how is that teenager filling their tank and buying coffee & fast food? Maybe your boss will buy cards for performance incentives, referral thank-yous, or holiday give-aways! Would your church buy grocery cards from you to use for the after-service coffee time or for nursery supplies or to give to the poor through their benevolence programs? Think creatively ~ and it certainly doesn’t hurt to at least ask. ;)

“Wouldn’t it be easier (and greener) to buy one physical card and then reload it at the store when it runs out?”

Re-loading a card at the store works but it will provide **NO** rebate. To get the discount, you must purchase cards from LCS/ECS.

“What’s the difference between the TRIP and ScripNOW program?”

The TRIP program provides physical cards and access to local merchants/businesses; rebates may be accrued by non-parents or saved by parents for future use. ScripNOW is an electronic program to virtually reload physical cards (only those offered by and purchased through TRIP) or to access nationwide merchants with app-based purchases; an information meeting and pre-registration is required to be a ScripNOW user and rebates earned must be applied to a tuition account twice yearly. (Questions can be addressed to: ScripNow@lynchs.org)

“I have registered my grocery loyalty cards and don’t know why I am not receiving rebates.”

Registering with Safeway and Haggen, as example, provides a kick-back to the school as a whole when certain products are purchased...which is encouraged and appreciated. However, the only way to earn **PERSONAL** rebates is to buy physical gift cards through the program operating on our school campuses.

(More questions? Stop by the Lynden Campus on a Thursday morning between 8-10 a.m. for a personal tutorial!)

LYNDEN CAMPUS

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