

## AMHS SCRIP FAQs

### 1) What is SCRIP?

SCRIP gift certificates are the same gift certificates that merchants sell directly to their customers. The AMHS SCRIP program is able to purchase the certificates at a discount either locally or through our supplier, Great Lakes Scrip. The denomination of certificates is standard, depending on the retailer. The discount averages approximately 5%, with some retailers offering substantially less. The AMHS SCRIP program follows the discount averages by crediting 5% of all purchases, unless otherwise stipulated (e.g. we currently offer Home Depot at 3%).

### 2) What is the AMHS SCRIP Fundraising Obligation?

The SCRIP fundraising obligation per family per year is \$100. As stated above, approximately 5% of SCRIP purchases are credited toward a family's obligation, unless a vendor has reduced their donation to less than 5%. Therefore, approximately \$2,000 worth of AMHS SCRIP purchases will meet the AMHS \$100 SCRIP fundraising obligation.

### 3) Why fund raise with SCRIP and where do SCRIP funds go?

SCRIP is a great fundraiser, as it does not cost your family anything to purchase or use! \$100 of Top Foods SCRIP buys \$100 worth of Top Foods groceries. The success of our SCRIP program affects our tuition discount. All SCRIP profit goes into the AMHS general fund. This fund supports academic programs, athletic programs, and building projects.

### 4) Buying SCRIP vs. SCRIP Fundraising Obligation Buyout

If a family does not wish to purchase SCRIP, they may fulfill their SCRIP obligation by "buying out", and simply writing a check to the school for \$100. Last school year, despite many AMHS families opting to buyout, AMHS families averaged \$144 in SCRIP profits. The more our SCRIP program makes, the greater support to our General Fund.

### 5) Can we create Standing Orders?

Creating a standing order is a great way to ensure that your orders are processed every time. An example of a bi-weekly order would be:

\$200 Fred Meyer

\$100 Top Foods

\$50 Restaurants – Applebees, La Palmera, La Hacienda or Red Lobster, etc.

\$50 Macy's or another retailer (for gifts, etc.)

\$400 each of the 18 orders. Your efforts will exceed your obligation and generate \$360 profit for the SCRIP program.

Orders can be changed up to 9AM on the day of the order. Feel free to input orders for future dates and submit the checks by 9AM on the order date.

## **6) Do SCRIP cards make good gifts?**

YES! SCRIP gift certificates/cards are the same as cash. They make great holiday, birthday and appreciation type gifts.

But go beyond just gifts, get creative! If the gas cards are not providing a decent percentage (1.5% credit), buy your family's gas at Fred Meyer where a 5% discount is offered. If Best Buy only offers 2% discount – more than double your family's earned credits by buying Top Foods, Safeway or Fred Meyers (at 5%) and buy from their gift card kiosks. Nordstrom doesn't offer gift cards, but most of the grocery chains sell them! Just a little bit of planning makes a big difference.

## **7) I would like to order a vendor that is not on our web form.**

Please view our web form at [www.am-hs.org](http://www.am-hs.org) Beyond our wonderful local retailers, there are many more national vendors available at the [www.GLScrip.com](http://www.GLScrip.com) website, under 'Retailers'. But in order to process your request, any vendor must be on our AMHS form. So plan ahead, contact the SCRIP Coordinator and we will post it on the web form for your order. Please provide us at least four days notice.

## **8) When is my check deposited?**

Your check will be deposited Monday morning when the orders are placed. Please do not 'post date' your check.

## **9) Can we use credit cards to purchase AMHS SCRIP?**

At this time we cannot accept credit cards. Currently, AMHS operates on a 5.2% profit margin. Banks charge 2% on the total sale of a card that is 'swiped'. Manually inputting cards numbers can double the bank's 'transaction fees'. This could reduce our profits by as little as 38% to as much as 100%.

## **10) When do SCRIP gift cards expire?**

As of 2004, gift cards issued in the state of Washington are not permitted to have an expiration date, dormancy, inactivity and/or service charges.

## **11) May I use my SCRIP certificates/cards to pay off my department store charge card balances?**

It is our understanding that most retailers have suspended this practice. It is best to check with each store, in advance of ordering/purchasing SCRIP for this purpose.

## **12) May friends and families participate in SCRIP?**

Absolutely! We welcome SCRIP use by family and friends of AMHS families. But orders will need to be ordered online by you. **Please have your friends/families write your family's last name in the 'memo' portion of their check.**

### **13) What is the SCRIP 'Auction' certificate?**

This category isn't actually a certificate, but part of the annual AMHS DREAM Auction. This program allows families to meet, or exceed, their AMHS Auction fundraising obligation. Simply order \$300 of AUCTION SCRIP and these monies will be available for the Auction team to use, at their discretion. Your family receives \$300 SCRIP credit at 5%, or \$15. In addition, your family meets their \$300 Auction fundraising obligation. Our Auction Team has the added flexibility to complete or enhance specific packages. This is a win-win-win option!

### **14) Additional SCRIP products . . . .**

Occasionally, teachers or staff can be acknowledged with SCRIP gifts. Please contact us if you have a SCRIP gift need for a coach, teacher or staff. We can create a special area, at the bottom of the order form. Here, families can gift in \$5 increments and a date is created when orders are closed. After that date, a certificate is generated with the total SCRIP denomination. The coach/teacher/staff can use this gift certificate in anyway they wish or need.

### **15) SCRIP Volunteers**

YES, we do need volunteers (or back up volunteers) to process and prepare your orders. Jobs include: running around on Monday, driving around on Tuesday/Wednesday and preparing the order on Thursday. Luckily, our wonderful online system has simplified the process, so you don't even need to know how to count! If you are interested, please contact the SCRIP Coordinator.

### **16) SCRIP information contact:**

2008-2009 SCRIP Coordinator:

Ann Adams

(425)347-8688

[scrip@am-hs.org](mailto:scrip@am-hs.org)

If you have a SCRIP idea, please share it with us at [scrip@am-hs.org](mailto:scrip@am-hs.org). We will continue to enhance the AMHS program to make it easier for your family to meet their obligations, to create profit for the school and make the SCRIP program easier to use.