

YOUR ONE SOURCE



www.starone.org | 866.543.5202 | Winter 2015

Rich Rewards plus Enhanced Benefits

The NEW Star One Visa® Rewards Program

When you use your Star One Visa Signature or Visa Platinum Rewards card, no annual fees and exceptional rates are just the beginning! In addition to an all-around great value, both cards allow you to earn reward points that can be accrued and redeemed for perks such as travel (including airline tickets, cruises and hotels), cash, retail gift cards or merchandise.

How Points Are Earned

We've made it easy for you to shop and earn points with your Rewards card for all purchases. There's no need to remember which merchant category pays what! You earn the same point value no matter where you use your card.

- Visa Signature cards earn 1.25 points for every \$1 in purchases.
- Platinum Rewards cards earn 1 point for every \$1 in purchases.
- The reward points you accumulate are good for up to 5 years, and there is no reward maximum.

Additional Benefits for the Visa Signature Rewards Card:

- CLEAR membership – get through airport security lines faster with a CLEAR membership at no additional cost from Star One.*
- Signature Concierge Service – complimentary 24-hour service for event tickets and more.
- Trip cancellation/interruption – get reimbursed for non-refundable travel should you need to cancel.
- No Foreign Transaction Fees for purchases or advances made internationally.
- Use points for travel, cash, gift cards or merchandise – you decide!
- Give points to friends or family or link multiple Star One Visa accounts.
- Plus much more!

Additional Benefits for the Visa Platinum Rewards Card:

- No Foreign Transaction Fees for purchases or advances made internationally.
- Use points for travel, cash, gift cards or merchandise – you decide!
- Give points to friends or family or link multiple Star One Visa accounts.
- Plus much more!



Both cards offer:

- Great low non-variable rate and simple terms.
- No annual fee, no cash advance or balance transfer fee.
- Visa's Zero Liability for unauthorized transactions.

Learn More

Don't currently have a Star One Visa Rewards Card or want a no reward Star One Visa Platinum Card with a lower interest rate? Visit www.starone.org for details.

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- Inside this issue:**
- 2 Free Tax Help Is Available
 - 2 File Electronically for Faster Refunds
 - 3 Should You Name a Trust as Beneficiary of Your IRA?

- 3 Free Educational Workshops
- 4 Be Smart about Protecting Your Smartphone



Free Tax Help Is Available!

Low- to moderate-income earners (\$53,000 or less) can get free tax preparation help at Star One through the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Voluntary Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

Community volunteers, professionally trained and certified by the IRS, will provide free tax assistance for taxpayers who cannot afford professional help. These volunteers can help you determine whether you qualify for special credits and help you get the refund you are entitled to.

Three Ways to File

In-person help: Star One will offer VITA help at three sites on the days and times indicated (prefer latest sign-in at 6:30 p.m.):

› Blossom Hill Branch

1090 Blossom Hill Road, San Jose
Wednesdays, 4 – 7 p.m.,
Feb. 4 through April 15

› Stevens Creek Branch

3136 Stevens Creek Blvd., San Jose
Thursdays, 4 – 7 p.m.,
Feb. 5 through April 9

› El Camino Branch

3903 El Camino Real, Palo Alto
Fridays, 4 – 7 p.m.,
Fridays, 2 – 6 p.m. by appointments only*
Jan. 30 through April 10

Spanish-language service is available at the El Camino Branch.

Drop off: If you don't have time, you can also use the virtual filing process by dropping off your tax documents at one of the Star One VITA sites listed above and come back to pick up your tax return when it's ready.

File instantly online: The VITA program also encourages you to file your tax return electronically by using the free Facilitated Self Assistance (FSA) site at <http://myfreetaxes.com/StarOne>. To qualify for FSA filing, your income must be \$58,000 or less. If you have a refund coming, filing electronically and using direct deposit for your refund is the fastest way to get your money.

For additional information and a list of required items, visit www.starone.org and click on the VITA program link. To locate other VITA sites, call the IRS at **(800) 906-9887**.

* Call **(650) 352-3791** to make an appointment. The number is only used for appointments and not to get the status of activity at any of the locations.



File Electronically for Faster Refunds

For Internal Revenue Service and Franchise Tax Board tax filers requesting refunds or payments electronically, please provide the Star One routing number **(321177968)** and the 14-digit account number. The account number can be found on the bottom of your personal checks, in the "Account Details" section on the Online Banking Checking Account page or by logging into our mobile app and clicking on one of your accounts. You can also call a Star One Representative at **(408) 543-5202** or **(866) 543-5202** for the account number to be used on your tax return form.



Note: Number highlighted in blue is the actual Star One Credit Union Routing Number. The 14-digit Account Number highlighted in yellow is for example purposes only, and is not the actual sequence found on your personal checks.

Stevens Creek Branch Is Now Open on Saturday

The Stevens Creek Branch is open Saturdays from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. You can apply for a loan, open an account or bring a friend to join Star One.



Should You Name a Trust as Beneficiary of Your IRA?



If you own an individual retirement account (IRA), you need to name one or more beneficiaries for it. The beneficiary is the person (or entity) that will receive the assets of the IRA in the event of your death. Choosing carefully is important because your named IRA beneficiary supersedes any instructions in your will; your IRA beneficiary designation determines where the money will go.

The IRS has complex rules about when distributions from an inherited IRA plan must be taken (and thus when taxes must be paid). Distribution options available for an inherited IRA depend on:

- The IRA owner's age at the time of death (before or after the beginning date for RMDs (required minimum distributions)).
- The beneficiary's relationship to the deceased IRA owner (spouses have more options than others).
- Whether there is one or more than one IRA beneficiary.

Some people name a trust as the beneficiary of their IRA. There are both pros and cons to this approach, which should be explored and understood fully before you take action. Here are some highlights.

Advantages of Naming a Trust Your IRA Beneficiary

Control: You can ensure that the assets of your IRA are distributed according to the same plan that is set up in your trust. This might be important if, for example, the beneficiary is a minor child or has special needs or you wish to skip a generation.

Manage estate taxes: You can avoid having the IRA assets become part of your estate, which could be important if estate taxes will be an issue for you. Federal estate taxes apply only to estates of \$5.34 million* or more, but state estate taxes may apply to smaller estates.

Disadvantages of Naming a Trust Your IRA Beneficiary

Shorter RMD withdrawal period: Required minimum distributions (RMDs) will be based on the life expectancy of the oldest beneficiary of the trust.

Minimizes tax deferral options: Naming individual beneficiaries (instead of your trust) allows each beneficiary to use his or her own life expectancy to calculate RMDs, potentially stretching the IRA out for a longer period and reducing a possible tax burden.

Consider your spouse: Naming your spouse as the beneficiary allows them to 'roll' the IRA into one of their own. If you name your trust as beneficiary, your spouse loses that opportunity. Think twice before giving up that option for them.

Star One Can Help

Naming a beneficiary for your IRA comes down to deciding what your goals are and then finding the best way to accomplish them. No one answer is right for everyone. You may want to ask our IRA experts for their help in exploring your options. You should seek advice from an estate planning attorney or tax attorney once you know your options. For more information, call a Star One IRA Specialist at **(408) 543-5202** or **(866) 543-5202**.

* This is the amount for the 2014 tax year. It will be adjusted annually for inflation.

Please note that neither this financial institution nor any of its affiliates give tax or legal advice. Consult your tax advisor regarding your individual circumstances.

Free Educational Workshops

Star One wants to help you on your path to financial security, now and in the future. Please join us for any of these free workshops.

How to Prepare, Pay and Stay in College

Date: January 28, 2015
Time: 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Location: Star One Administration Building
1306 Bordeaux Dr., Sunnyvale
RSVP by: January 27

Financial Literacy for Recent Graduates

Date: January 29, 2015
Time: 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Location: Star One Administration Building
1306 Bordeaux Dr., Sunnyvale
RSVP by: January 28

Finances for New Families

Date: February 11, 2015
Time: 5:30 – 7 p.m.
Location: Star One Administration Building
1306 Bordeaux Dr., Sunnyvale
RSVP by: February 10

Top 10 Reasons to Open an IRA

Date: March 18, 2015
Time: 5:30 – 7 p.m.
Location: Star One Administration Building
1306 Bordeaux Dr., Sunnyvale
RSVP by: March 17

Moving Your Retirement Dollars – IRAs and 401(k)s

Date: March 19, 2015
Time: 5:30 – 7 p.m.
Location: Star One Administration Building
1306 Bordeaux Dr., Sunnyvale
RSVP by: March 18

Registration is required: Please call **(408) 543-5127** and leave your name, number of guests attending, daytime phone number and location you plan to attend, visit a **Branch** or visit **www.starone.org** to register online. Space is limited. Workshops are free and open to members and non-members. Workshop schedule subject to change, please refer to **www.starone.org** for more information.

Be Smart about Protecting Your Smartphone



Smartphones and other mobile devices have made our lives easier in many ways. But, their allure and high resale value has also made them a prime target for thieves. While there's no way to completely eliminate risk when owning one, there are ways you can protect yourself, your device and all the important data it contains.

Keep Your Device and Data Safe

Password-protect your phone. Set your phone to lock automatically if you don't use it for a few minutes. It should require a password to reopen. In addition, use different passwords for shopping and financial apps.

Be aware of your surroundings. If an area feels unsafe it may be best not to use your device, or to use it discreetly. Avoid using Bluetooth in crowded areas, which makes it easier for thieves to steal your information.

Don't send personal information on a public Wi-Fi network, such as in a coffee shop, library or hotel. Wait until you can use an encrypted wireless network that requires a password.

Keep up-to-date with updates and patches to your devices' operating system. These updates often include new protections when vulnerabilities in software arise. Also be sure to back up vital data to a trusted computer.

Think before texting or emailing. Never reply to a text or email asking for personal or account information. For example, Star One will never text or email you asking for this type of information.

In the Event of Theft

If your device is lost or stolen there are some steps you can take. First, change the login credentials to any online accounts you have access to through your mobile device. If your device is used to access Star One's online or mobile banking you can visit www.starone.org to change your password. Do not attempt to retrieve a stolen phone yourself. Always report the theft to your local authorities as well as your wireless carrier.

Star One Phone Representatives

(408) 543-5202 or
(866) 543-5202 toll free
Fax: (408) 543-5203

Star One Phone Representatives are available Mon. – Fri., 7 a.m. – 9 p.m. and on weekends and most holidays from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. For your convenience, we use a Shared Branch call center to handle after-hours calls. They can assist you with general questions and basic transactions.

Branch Hours:

Mon., Tues. & Thur. 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Wed. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Fri. 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Sat. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Stevens Creek Branch Only

Cupertino

De Anza Branch
10991 N. De Anza Blvd.
De Anza Blvd. & Homestead Rd.

Palo Alto

El Camino Branch
3903 El Camino Real
El Camino Real & Ventura Ave.

San Jose

Blossom Hill Branch
1090 Blossom Hill Rd.
Blossom Hill Rd. & Almaden Expwy.

San Jose

Stevens Creek Branch
3136 Stevens Creek Blvd.
Stevens Creek & S. Winchester

Sunnyvale

Enterprise Branch
1080 Enterprise Way, #150
Enterprise Way & 11th Ave.

Website

www.starone.org

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 3643
Sunnyvale, CA 94088

Email

service@starone.org

Your savings are federally insured to at least \$250,000 and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government. National Credit Union Administration, a U.S. Government Agency.

We do business in accordance with the Federal Fair Housing Law and the Equal Credit Opportunity Act.

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Holiday Schedule

Star One branches will be closed to observe:

Martin Luther King Jr. Day – January 19 (Monday)

President's Day – February 16 (Monday)