Happy Holidays and Warm Wishes for 2018!

Happy Holidays from all of us at the BBB Institute for Marketplace Trust. This month we're sharing tips on holiday spending and how to steer clear of seasonal scams. We hope you have a safe and wonderful holiday season!

VETERANS & MILITARY FAMILIES

Employment Scams #1 Riskiest Scam Type for Military Spouses & Veterans
By Better Business Bureau

We received thousands of reports per year from active-duty service members, military families and veterans through our crowd-sourced scam reporting tool, BBB Scam Tracker, and we look to these reports to spot trends and educate military consumers on what’s happening in communities across North America. Of those that shared their story on BBB Scam Tracker, 15 percent of those reporting an employment scam lost money. The median loss was $1,715 -- nearly double that reported across all consumers.

See a Shady Ad? Report it to BBB!
By Better Business Bureaus

Better Business Bureau today announced the launch of its latest consumer reporting service, BBB AdTruth (BBB.org/AdTruth): an online tool that empowers everyday shoppers to identify advertisements that appear to contain claims that are questionable or which may lack evidence to support them. Consumers can report them so BBB advertising review specialists can assess their truthfulness.

HOLIDAY FINANCE & SAVINGS

10 Tips for Savvy Holiday Spending
By Military OneSource

Holidays mean spending, but you’ve got the discipline to keep it reined in this season. As you begin your shopping, consider these tips to stay on track.

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Veterans: Watch Out for Government Imposter Scams
By Better Business Bureau

One of the ways scammers trick you into handing over your hard-earned cash is by saying they’re with the government. As a veteran, you may engage with government agencies on a more regular basis about benefits and services, so hearing from them out of the blue might not seem surprising. Scammers rely on this trust, and frequently masquerade as official government representatives to get your attention.

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Fraud-Fighting Tips from BBB Scam Tracker Heroes: Hear their Stories
By Better Business Bureau

Experiencing a scam can be a frightful and lonely experience. It’s natural to feel betrayed, embarrassed and want to keep the experience to ourselves. This is exactly what scammers want -- to isolate you from your loved ones so they can continue to victimize your neighbors, friends and family.

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BBB Tip: Holiday Pop-Up Shops
By Better Business Bureau

Holiday shopping is expected to rise four percent this year, with consumers spending an average of just over $1,000 on holiday shopping, according to the National Retail Federation.

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12 Holiday Scams to Watch Out For
By Military.com

As more consumers pick up their smartphone and tablet to go holiday shopping, cyber crooks will try just about anything to dupe them out of their hard-earned money.

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Check out the new BBB.org/Military!

We’ve revamped our website to help connect you with helpful BBB services!

Visit BBB.org/Military to learn more.

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