

Did You Know Wish List Loans are Available All Year?

Wish List Loans were originally introduced to help members with holiday expenses, and they were only available October through December each year. We recognized that members may need a little financial boost at times other than the holiday season, so **Wish List Loans are available all year long!** A Wish List Loan may be used for just about anything – car repairs, vacation and travel, medical or veterinary bills, appliances, furniture, and more! Members in good standing may **borrow \$1,500 for an 18-month term***. An active direct deposit amount of at least \$110 per month for the last six (6) months is required to qualify. Unlike other ECU personal loans, all approved borrowers receive the same, **recently reduced rate of 11.49% APR***, which is not based on their credit score. Even though a credit score is not used to determine the interest rate, we do rely on the trends and overall repayment history indicated on an applicant's credit report. Ready to apply? Contact a Loan Officer today at **216.581.5581** or learn more at www.emeraldgcu.com.

*A sample monthly payment for a \$1,500 loan at a rate of 11.49% (24.652% Annual Percentage Rate) for 18 months with full payment protection is approximately \$105.61 per month. A minimum monthly Direct Deposit amount of \$110 into your ECU account must be active for at least six (6) months to qualify. Interest rate is based on 0.50% discount for automatic repayment. A \$150 processing fee will be assessed and added to the amount borrowed. Only one (1) Wish List Loan per member at any time. All rates and promotions are subject to change without notice. Other restrictions may apply.



Purchase a Car from the Dealer Like a Pro

Purchasing a new car is often exciting, especially when you're trading in that old clunker for something with all the latest features and gadgets. But even with the prospect of a shiny new set of wheels, a trip to the dealership may be overwhelming and stressful for some. Check out these tips to help you buy a vehicle from the dealer without getting in over your head:

- **Get preapproved first.** This is the most important step, and helps answer the question of how much you can comfortably afford. Applying for preapproval also reveals potential issues or errors found on your credit report, allowing you to correct them before making that large purchase. Remember, higher credit scores will reward you with better loan rates! Plus, dealerships can increase the interest rates they offer, which may be higher than what your credit score would qualify you for. And, a higher rate means you'll pay much more in interest over the life of the loan. However, if the dealer does offer a lower rate than what you're preapproved for, make sure to check that none of the other conditions will change, like rebates, trade-in value, down payment, or loan term. Having preapproval gives you all the necessary tools and negotiating power to snag the best deal possible. We're here when you're ready – Contact a Loan Officer or visit www.emeraldgcu.com to start your application!
- **Test drive potential vehicles.** Researching vehicles online and reading buyer reviews is a great start. However, the car that's perfect for someone else may not be the right fit for you. It's best to get behind the wheel and test drive the vehicle for yourself. What if the seats are uncomfortable or it doesn't handle the way you hoped? Without test driving, you could get stuck with a car that you really don't like at all. It's also wise to only test drive vehicles you can afford. This way, you won't be tempted by something that's out of your price range.

- **Don't reveal too much too soon.** You know how much you can afford and you've found the right car. Now it's time to focus on the price you're actually going to pay. This is like a game to dealership salespeople, and they're experts. But you can play too, by not showing your hand until the time is right. Settle on the vehicle price first, before mentioning a trade-in (if you have one) and negotiating the value. It's prudent to do your homework here; Kelley Blue Book and Edmunds are both great resources for used car values. Just remember to take it one step at a time. If you give all the information up front, the salesperson can juggle it all in their head to manipulate other purchase conditions. For example, they may reduce incentives and cash back bonuses or lowball your trade-in to compensate for a lower purchase price.
- **Don't buy add-ons from the dealer.** After negotiating your purchase price and trade-in, the final stretch involves all that paperwork. This is the point where the dealer will try selling you several add-on products like an extended warranty, GAP insurance, and other protection plans. These are all way overpriced, because the dealer makes a lot of money off of them. If you're interested in adding these products, check with your lender first and compare prices before you commit. For example, some dealers charge upwards of \$750 for GAP insurance, while we offer the same product for only \$499. Check out all of our optional protection products at www.emeraldgcu.com/loans/vehicle-loans.

Introduce Your Family to Ours

Build a strong foundation for you and your family by sharing the benefits of Emerald Credit Union membership. Your immediate family members are eligible to join with as little as a \$5.00 deposit.

Learn more by visiting
<https://www.emeraldgcu.com/about/who-can-join>.



68th Annual Meeting Announcement

Members are invited to join us for our **68th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.** The meeting will be streamed live, which means you may attend from the comfort of your own home. **No reservations are required** – On the day of the Annual Meeting, simply click the link provided on our Annual Meeting webpage, www.emeraldgcu.com/about/annual-meeting. You will be required to enter your Share Account number and another piece of unique identifying information to verify membership. Door prizes will be awarded, and winners will be randomly selected during the meeting. **One lucky winner will receive \$100!** Please note that you must be in attendance to win.

Need a Break from Monthly Bills? *Complete the Application Below to Skip-A-Pay**

Members in good standing may "skip" a payment on any eligible ECU loan once each calendar year. And what better time than right after all your holiday spending? The Skip-A-Pay application must be received prior to the due date of the loan payment you wish to skip. Deliver your completed application to our branch, or mail it to **Emerald Credit Union, Attn: Skip-A-Pay, 13201 Granger Rd., Suite 1, Garfield Heights, OH 44125**. Please note that all borrowers (primary, joint, cosigner) must sign the application.

I want to skip my loan payment during the month of _____. I agree to pay a \$35.00 processing fee for each loan payment I choose to skip. I understand that interest will continue accruing during the month my payment is skipped, that my next payment will be due the month following my skipped payment, and that my loan maturity date will be extended. I authorize Emerald Credit Union to change my payment schedule.

Primary Borrower Name: _____

Joint/Cosigner Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Primary Borrower Signature: _____

X _____

Date: _____

Joint/Cosigner Signature: _____

X _____

Date: _____

PLEASE SKIP-A-PAY ON THE FOLLOWING LOANS:

Loan Account Number and Suffix: _____

Loan Account Number and Suffix: _____

To pay the \$35.00 processing fee for EACH skipped loan payment:

- I have enclosed a check.
 I authorize a transfer from Account Number and Suffix

*Platinum Visa Credit Cards, Mortgages, Home Equity Line of Credit Loans, Wish List Loans, and Share Secured Loans are not eligible. Membership and loans must be in good standing, defined as a \$5.00 minimum share balance and no overdrawn or delinquent accounts. If loans are or have been delinquent, over-the-limit, or accounts have been overdrawn, ECU reserves the right to deny the Skip-A-Pay request. Skip-A-Pay is not available during the first six (6) months of any eligible loan term. Only one (1) payment per eligible loan can be skipped in any calendar year (January - December). Skipped payments cannot be consecutive (December and January). Maximum of five (5) skips allowed per eligible loan. Skip-A-Pay request must be received five (5) days prior to the due date of the loan. Payment Protection premiums (if applicable) and interest will continue to accrue during the skipped payment period, and the loan maturity date will be extended. The \$35.00 processing fee per loan payment skipped will not reduce the principal.



Transplant Your Credit Card Balances to Our Platinum Visa!

Transplant your credit card balances to our Platinum Visa and grow some extra savings! Rising interest rates mean you're paying more in finance charges with variable-rate credit cards. Our Platinum Visa credit card offers new cardholders a **fixed intro rate of 1.99% APR for 12 months on all purchases and balance transfers***. Plus, there's no balance transfer fee or annual fee. Other features include a 5-day late payment grace period, a reward points program, and more! Ask for details or visit www.emeraldgcu.com to learn more, and apply today!

*APR=Annual Percentage Rate. The Introductory APR for purchases and balance transfers will apply to transactions posted to your account during the 12 months/billing cycles following the issuance of your card. After that, your APR will be 8.95% to 21.95%, based on your creditworthiness at the time of application. Subject to credit approval. Offer valid for new ECU Platinum Visa accounts only. Must be eligible for membership at Emerald Credit Union. All rates and promotions are subject to change. Visit www.emeraldgcu.com for details and full disclosure information.

SEEKING CANDIDATES TO SERVE

Are you interested in becoming a part of Emerald CU's Board of Directors?

Are you interested in becoming a part of Emerald CU's Board of Directors? If you would like to be considered for a director position, please contact the Nominating Committee at 13201 Granger Road Suite 1, Garfield Heights, OH 44125 to request a Volunteer Information Packet and Volunteer Application. Completed Volunteer Applications must be returned to the Nominating Committee by **Friday, March 3, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.** to be considered. The Nominating Committee will select at least one potential candidate for each available position. All director positions have a three-year term.

OFFICES CLOSED

All Emerald CU offices will be closed in observance of the following federal holidays in 2023:

President's Day	Monday, February 20
Memorial Day	Monday, May 29
Juneteenth National Independence Day	Monday, June 19
Independence Day	Tuesday, July 4
Labor Day	Monday, September 4
Columbus Day	Monday, October 9
Veterans Day	Saturday, November 11
Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 23
Christmas Day	Monday, December 25

YOUR SAVINGS INSURED TO \$250,000 PER ACCOUNT



By members' choice, this institution is not federally insured. MEMBERS' ACCOUNTS ARE NOT INSURED OR GUARANTEED BY ANY GOVERNMENT OR GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED AGENCY.



Garfield Heights
Call or Text: 216.581.5581

Visit us on the web
www.emeraldgcu.com

Let's Get Social!

Call 24 - Audio Teller
216.581.3166