

MANNA FOR DUMMIES

The RAYS MANNA commitment is intended to support our team in a way that does not cost an additional penny from our parents. When you pre-order gift cards or use available vendor cards at participating retailers, you, as a consumer, receive 100% value for the money paid for the card. As a non-profit, the team receives a varying percentage of the sales of those cards you have purchased.

Having been a first year parent before, the MANNA commitment was overwhelming and I struggled to meet my commitment. To save you the aggravation and hopefully a few dollars, I've put together some tips and examples to show that it is VERY feasible to reach your MANNA commitment with just a little planning.

First, local grocery stores (Food Lion which includes Bottom Dollar & Bloom, Giant & Shopper's Food) and Kohl's gift cards are available at each pool every day. Simply bring a check (preferred method), have another parent count out your cards, and both of you complete and sign the receipt. You keep the white copy and your gift cards. Your check and the yellow copy get filed with the other payments in the MANNA box. **MAKE SURE YOUR FAMILY IS CLEARLY IDENTIFIED** so you receive credit for the purchase!

Second, special orders are done twice a month during the Fall. The "Scrip" (another name for MANNA) Order Form is available on the website (www.swimrays.org). It lists dozens of restaurants and retailers with the gift card denominations that are available and the percentage associated with the purchase. By doing some pre-planning, you'll have your MANNA commitment in no time!

I've created three months worth of examples to give an idea of how the things that you normally do, will fulfill your requirement when you purchase the gift cards ahead of time. It is not intended to get you to spend any extra money.

The basis for each month is such....once a week grocery shopping, once a month pizza, once a month eating out, a once a month family activity type night and some shopping for gifts or necessities. Some of you do and/or spend much more and some less. The point is that with some planning, many of your normal activities involve retailers that will "pay" your entire MANNA commitment. Take a look at the examples...

Some additional ideas to help...

- Encourage friends or neighbors to buy cards through you. They give you \$100, you "buy" them \$100 worth of their grocery store gift cards of choice. It doesn't cost your neighbor anything additional and you get the credit in your account for the team. Most grocery cards and Kohl's cards are available every day at the pool. No waiting!
- At Kohl's and don't have any gift cards with you? It's OK! Kohl's will allow you to charge on your Kohl's card and then pay off your statement balance with gift cards.
- Not sure what to get teachers, co-workers or friends at Christmas time...everyone appreciates gift cards. Try Starbuck's for those coffee-lovers or Bath & Body for that young new mother.
- Bring the scrip order form in to the lunchroom or your cubicle at work. Orders go in twice a month through Christmas and the cards are delivered the following week. (Note: Consider ordering early as there can be backorders around Christmastime.)

Did you know....that once you exceed your annual commitment you can still continue earning? Let's say that I earn an additional \$100 in my manna account before June 1st. I get to apply \$50 of that money against my child's meet fees and the team gets an additional \$50 put in the coffers. A win-win for both you and the team!

Hopefully this was helpful. If you have additional questions, please contact any board member for assistance or with any suggestions.