

Tax Benefits You Might Overlook

1. **Charitable Volunteering.** If you volunteer for a charitable organization you may have deductible expenses. Did you purchase any supplies or required equipment? If you volunteer and need to purchase a uniform, the costs for the apparel and the costs to clean the uniform can qualify as charitable deductions. Mileage can also be deducted in certain situations.
2. **Moving Expenses.** In addition to deducting regular moving expenses, you may also deduct moving expenses for a first job. The job must pass a 50 mile distance test from the place the newly employed person has been living.
3. **Job Hunting Costs.** Workers can often deduct job hunting costs provided the expenses are associated with looking for a new job in your present occupation. Qualifying costs include resume preparation, printing, postage, phone calls and outplacement/employment agency fees. These costs, along with other miscellaneous itemized expenses, must exceed 2 percent of your adjusted gross income before they produce any tax savings.
4. **Child and Dependent Care Credit.** In addition to regular day care costs, you may also deduct summer day camp costs. As long as the camp is a day-camp and camp officials supervise the child while parents work, you claim the credit for the camp costs.
5. **Mortgage Refinancing Points.** If you refinance your house or buy a second home, any “points” you pay for the loan can be deducted proportionately each year over the life of the loan. If you sell your home or refinance before you have deducted the full cost of your “points”, you can then deduct the remaining amount in the year of the refinancing or sale. Keep in mind, the lender in the subsequent refinancing must be different to deduct points this way.
6. **Military Reservists’ Travel Expenses.** Military reserve forces and National Guard troops are allowed a deduction for travel expenses attending drills or meetings provided you travel more than 100 miles and stay overnight for the training exercise. This deduction includes mileage reimbursement at 55 cents per mile. Parking toll fees also qualify. You receive this deduction whether or not you itemize your deductions.