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For Immediate Release

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### **Get the Most Out of Your Vacation with Smart Credit Choices** *AFSA Education Foundation Offers Common Sense Financial Tips for Vacationers*

**WASHINGTON, June 15, 2010**...If you'll be among those traveling again this summer after taking a "staycation" last year, maximize the enjoyment of your vacation with smart credit decisions, says the AFSA Education Foundation (AFSAEF).

"Many families exhibited caution with their summer vacation in 2009, and there's no reason not to continue making sensible financial choices this year," said Susie Irvine, AFSAEF's president and chief executive officer. "Ease back into the vacation mode by deciding where you'll be spending your money – whether it's on food, travel, souvenirs, or tickets to attractions – rather than plunging in and facing overwhelming vacation bills when you return home."

AFSAEF offers the following basic, but proven, tips to help vacationers reduce their money worries:

- Set a budget – and stick to it – so you don't come home to bills you're unable to pay. If you're traveling by plane, contact the airline in advance to learn about any new fees, such as those for checked bags, so you won't be surprised.
- Stay within your budget by balancing nice dinners with buffet brunches or packed lunches – be creative and flexible to enjoy yourself while being careful not to spend more than you planned.
- Limit the credit cards that you carry to only those you plan to use. The fewer cards you bring, the fewer you have to keep track of.
- Know the line of credit on your credit cards and the daily withdrawal amounts allowed for your debit and ATM cards. Find out if your ATM card is accepted in your destination without additional fees.
- Be aware of new overdraft rules that will take effect later this summer. Unless you opt-in to overdraft protection, point-of-sale debit purchases that exceed your account balance will not be approved.
- Notify credit card issuers of your travel plans – particularly if you'll be traveling abroad or through multiple states – to avoid your purchases being flagged or declined.
- Use the same card that held your reservation to pay your bill so you are not mistakenly charged twice.
- Know where your credit cards are at all times, such as locked in a safe in your hotel room.
- After your return home, compare credit and debit card receipts from your trip to the charges on your statement to ensure they were recorded correctly.

Based in Washington, D.C., AFSAEF's ([www.afsaef.org](http://www.afsaef.org)) mission is to help consumers realize the benefits of responsible money management, understand the credit process and seek help if credit problems occur. It is affiliated with the American Financial Services Association ([www.afsaonline.org](http://www.afsaonline.org)), the national trade association for the consumer credit industry, protecting access to credit and consumer choice.

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