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47 Million Americans Have Volunteered to Pay a Group Bill to Reap Credit Card Rewards

21 million were not paid back

Austin, Texas – May 31, 2018 – Forty-seven million Americans -- or one in five -- say they have paid for a group bill (with the understanding they would be reimbursed) to earn points, miles or cash-back rewards on their credit cards, according to a new study from CreditCards.com. Unfortunately, 21 million of those people didn't always get their money back. Click here for more information:

<https://www.creditcards.com/credit-card-news/pick-up-the-tab-for-rewards-poll.php>

The practice of paying for a group expense to earn rewards is more prevalent with younger Americans. Older millennials (28%), ages 28-37, are the most inclined to pick up the tab for rewards compared to just 13% of Baby Boomers (ages 54-72). People who live in the West (26%) and Northeast (25%) are also far more likely to partake in this scenario than those residing in the Midwest (16%) or South (13%).

When it comes to the type of perks people covet, travel rewards are more popular. 12% of respondents said they foot the bill to increase their credit card points and miles rewards, while 7% are in search of cash-back rewards. Respondents are more interested in receiving miles and points versus cash-back across all age groups.

“Picking up a group expense can really help to rack up those credit card rewards (<https://www.creditcards.com/rewards-cards/>). But, buyers beware: be sure you trust the folks you're with to pay you back promptly. Otherwise, you could be stuck with footing the entire bill,” said Matt Schulz, senior industry analyst at CreditCards.com.

Unfortunately, bearing the full expense of the bill is not an uncommon predicament. 44% of people who picked up the tab for others say they were not paid back at least one time. Gen-Xers (54%) were most likely to have this happen to them.

When being reimbursed, most Americans (67%) prefer cash, followed by peer-to-peer payment services - such as PayPal, Venmo or Zelle (24%), check (5%) and online bill payment to their bank account (4%). Millennials (40%) are more than twice as likely to use peer-to-peer payments for reimbursements than all other age groups.

CreditCards.com commissioned GfK Custom Research North America to conduct the survey. Phone interviews were conducted with a nationally representative sample of 1,005 adults living in the continental United States between May 4-6, 2018. Statistical results are weighted to

correct known demographic discrepancies. The margin of sampling error for the complete set of weighted data is plus or minus 3.0 percentage points.

About CreditCards.com:

CreditCards.com is the ultimate credit card destination, filled with the largest marketplace of credit card offers you can find online, along with relevant news, advice, features and user-friendly tools. Our mission is to help consumers seize greater opportunity through smarter spending, and we believe that the right credit card, used the right way, can be a life-changer. In 2017, over 42 million unique visitors used CreditCards.com to find the right credit card to suit their needs.

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