

Well now, the warm weather was a tease, wasn't it? I didn't think that we were done with the grips of Cincinnati winter yet, but- I was lulled into a sense of safety with the pansies and cutting of grass.

I hope that I have been able to give you a sense of safety when it comes to your taxes and things to think about. I have been running out of ideas lately, and a friend of mine came up with a great idea- deduction for charity.

We all know the obvious charities: Church, United Way, AMVETS, and the pledge forms that we send in with the checks. What about the not so obvious? Kris, if it's not so obvious, how do we know about them? Well, I am going to let you know.

One of the most overlooked is the school that your children attend. No, this doesn't mean lunch or activity fee. The School Resource Center and the drives for needed items for families in need. The bucket brigade for penny wars, Christmas Families, etc. There is also a room need for tissues, glue, bags, paper towels, craft supplies, pencils and whatever else I get letters for. This adds up. Keep track of it, and don't forget the goodies for the Christmas and Valentines Day parties.

Do you volunteer regularly somewhere- school, Goodwill, hospitals, anywhere? The time that you commit is not deductible, but the mileage back and forth is.

What about Big Brothers and Sisters, Girl Scouts/Boy Scouts? Yep. Here is the catch with the Scouts, though. If you are a leader or committee member, you may deduct the mileage. If you are just the parent attending with your child, then no mileage there. But what about the camping trips to take kids, the food that you bring for the meals and the stuff for the crafts and games? Yep, it's deductible.

Big Brothers/Sisters if you take your little sister or brother to a movie or an outing and the mileage involved, then yes, it's deductible.

Giving of yourself is not only unselfish, and full of love, it is also a tax benefit. It's the only double dipping that the IRS will allow!

Tax Season is almost over. Are you prepared? Afraid you owe? Quit stalling and get it done!

Remember, if you have any questions, get me at Kristhetaxlady@gmail.com