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MARSHALL LOEB'S DAILY MONEY TIP

Investor education at your library

By [Marshall Loeb](#), MarketWatch

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NEW YORK (MarketWatch) -- Public libraries have always been a good place to educate yourself about personal finance, even more so now that a free educational program on the fundamentals of investing is launching at libraries around the country.

Investor Education @ Your Library is a non-commercial lecture program followed by optional one-on-one sessions with licensed investment counselors being sponsored by the American Library Association and Investor Protection Trust.

The 90-minute seminar will cover the basics of bonds, stocks, mutual funds and saving for college and retirement. Afterward, participants will be able to review their financial status and goals individually and privately, no strings attached.

The non-profit IPT is taking pains to let investors know they won't be subject to the kind of customer-trolling common with many supposedly-free investment seminars. The lecturers are volunteers from institutional investing firms and the follow-up sessions will be with licensed professionals who will provide a financial checkup and nothing else. None of the volunteer educators will be giving out business cards.

The program starts on March 28 in Washington D.C. and will take place on a single day in each of 20 cities through the summer, so make sure to find out whether your city is included and sign up in advance because attendance will be limited to 100 people in each city.

The events are free but registration is mandatory so that worksheets and other material can be sent beforehand telling participants which financial statements and documents to bring for use in the one-on-one sessions.

After Washington, the next seminar will be in Sacramento, Calif. on April 8, then in Charlotte, N.C. and Sioux Falls, S.D. on April 22. The list of participating cities, dates and times can be found at <http://cs.ala.org/ra/invest>.



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