



How To Tell If A Mystery Shopping Job Is A Scam

Getting paid to mystery shop. Sounds awesome, right? However, watch out for scams by following these tips from the Smart Axe Guide to Careers:

1. They ask you to pay an upfront fee. **Never** pay upfront.
2. They charge you to see available jobs.
3. They ask you to wire money. This is a huge **RED FLAG**. They may send you a check for a large sum of money, claiming you get to keep part of the check. They may then ask you to wire-transfer it through Western Union. These checks are typically counterfeit and will bounce.
4. They make outrageous claims such as paying \$50-\$100/hour, getting to keep designer clothes or products, or getting paid to do nothing.
5. Although this isn't true for all jobs, one thing to be wary of are contact emails with general accounts. For example, billsmith@gmail.com or janedoe@yahoo.com.

Ways to tell the mystery shopping job is legitimate:

1. Shoppers are paid by the job, not the hour.
2. In the application process, you will be asked for your SSN. This is because they have to report your income to the IRS.
3. Check to see if it's a secure website.
4. If a company is visible on the MSPA website (www.mysteryshop.org), it is a company you can trust. A list of companies can be found at: <http://www.mysteryshop.org/member-companies>. However, be aware that scammers sometimes use the name of legitimate companies.

If you feel like something seems wrong, trust your instincts and don't get scammed!

Mystery Shopping Tip: Recipe for a Good Narrative

An article by Integrity Consultants reports that one of the most common frustrations for a shopper is a request for more detail or more information from an editor. However, it's important to understand that when it comes to mystery shopping reports, an editor is not just looking for spelling, grammar and punctuation, but is also looking for content and context.

Editors have to identify discrepancies, timing issues, and contradictions between the narrative and questionnaire and also have to ensure that the report tells a complete story. Shoppers often get frustrated when a report is returned or when they are asked to provide more information, because they sometimes don't understand exactly what is being asked. You can help by providing a complete narrative story, a chronological, logical, organized order of events, from the time of arrival to the time of departure from the location.

Remember that a narrative is exactly like a recipe. You can open any cookbook and reproduce the perfect chocolate cake, right? A narrative should be written in such a way that the person reading it, whether it's the client or an editor, could answer the numbered questions just by reading the narrative. When you write a narrative, you are supporting why you answered a particular question the way you did.

Remember to always verify reporting requirements and shop guidelines with your scheduler and/or editor, and the next time you have a report with a lengthy narrative requirement or an editor asks you for more detail or just, "More", try this tip. You'll find that a thorough narrative is a recipe for mystery shopping success.

HOT SPOTS

If you know anyone who lives in the areas listed and might be interested in conducting mystery shops, please direct them to the CP website (www.customerperspectives.com).

CA	ME cont.	MA cont.	MN cont.	PA
Aptos	Northeast Harbor	Scituate	White Bear	Tannersville
Barstow	Rockland	Seekonk	Willmar	Greensburg
Capitola	South China	Shrewsbury	Woodbury	Natrona Hgts
Corte Madera	Southwest Harbor	Springfield	Zimmerman	Pittsburg
Santa Cruz County	Topsham	Stockbridge	NH	Washington
Scotts Valley	Winter Harbor	Sturbridge	Canaan	RI
Watsonville	MD	W. Bridgewater	Enfield	Johnson
CT	Annapolis	W. Roxbury	Hanover	Pawtucket
Bridgeport	Queenstown	Walpole	Keene	Providence
Milford	MA	Walpole	Lebanon	Warwick
New London	Brockton	Williamsburg	Lyme	Woonsocket
Norwalk	Abington	MN	Nashua	SC
Orange	Auburn	Baudette	Rochester	Bluffton
Stamford	Belchertown	Crookston	West Lebanon	TN
Stamford	Braintree	Deer River	NJ	Cordova
Stratford	Chicopee	Ely	Atlantic City	TX
Vernon	Dedham	Gilbert	Marlton	The Woodlands
DE	Dorchester	Grand Marais	Paramus	UT
Newark	Everett	Grand Rapids	NY	Park City
GA	Fairhaven	International Falls	Central Valley	VA
Columbus	Falmouth	Ortonville	Deer Park	Woodbridge
Hawkinsville	Florence	Ossego	Garden City	VT
Warner Robins	Hadley	Otsego	Lake George	Bethel
ME	Hyannis	Owatonna	Riverhead	Bennington
Augusta	Kingston	Sartell	Waterloo	Brandon
Bangor	Marlborough	Thief River Falls	White Plains	Chelsea
Bar Harbor	Milford	Victoria	NC	Hartland
Blue Hill	Millis	Virginia	Durham	S. Burlington
Deer Isle	N. Dartmouth	Waconia	Raleigh	S. Strafford
Ellsworth	Northampton	Wadena	OH	
Lubec	Norwood	Waite Park	Elyria	
Machias	Randolph	Walker	Stow	
Millbridge	Raynham	Warroad	OR	
Mt. Desert	S. Attleboro	Wayzata	Medford	

We welcome referrals for getting great shoppers. Please invite your family, friends and colleagues to visit www.CustomerPerspectives.com

Follow us on Facebook. Please like us on Facebook to find special or last minute shops.



<http://www.facebook.com/CustomerPerspectivesMysteryShopping>

Shopper Tips

Remember to check “search for visits outside my area” on your homepage if you will be traveling this summer and want to do some shops along the way.

If you are a MSPA Gold or Silver certified shopper, MSPA-NA has a special invitation for you to become a Shopper Member of the association. For more information, visit:

<http://www.mysteryshop.org/shopper-benefits>

Remember, it is your responsibility to be sure your information is up to date on your homepage. If you've had a change of address, phone number, email address, etc. be sure to update your profile (Edit my profile Change my password). This is especially important if you have changed your PayPal email address. Payment for completed shops cannot be made if there is no information in the PayPal Email Address field or if the information does not match up with your PayPal account. Contact shopperpayment@customerperspectives.com if you have any questions.