



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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Gift Responsibly This Holiday Season ***California State Lottery Reminds Everyone Scratchers Aren't Toys***

SACRAMENTO – This holiday season, the California Lottery urges its players and retail partners to gift responsibly. This means NOT selling or gifting lottery products to minors.

The Lottery is proud to participate in the annual Holiday Lottery Responsible Gaming campaign to increase public awareness about the serious issue of youth gambling. The campaign is in partnership with the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) and McGill University's International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors. During this campaign, state lotteries are encouraged to increase messaging on their communication channels to discourage the gifting of lottery tickets to minors during the holiday season.

The California Lottery's "gift responsibly" campaign is a part of its year-round responsible gaming program that strives to uphold the highest standards for the sale of its products.

"This is an important campaign to remind all of our customers that Lottery tickets are meant to be played and purchased by adults only - 18 years or older," said Alva V. Johnson, Director of the California State Lottery. "We want people to know that Lottery tickets, including *Scratchers*®, are definitely not toys and should only be gifted to grown-up friends and family."

Further, the California Lottery reminds its network of more than 22,000 retailers that the sale of Lottery products to anyone under the age of 18 is prohibited by law.

The California Lottery was the first in the country to receive the highest responsible gaming certification and recertification from the World Lottery Association (WLA) for its programs. As a WLA Level Four recipient, the Lottery has demonstrated that responsible gaming principles are part of its day-to-day operations. To learn more about the Lottery's responsible gaming program please visit the CA Lottery [website](#).

More information can be found on the NCPG's Holiday Lottery Responsible Gaming Campaign [website](#).

The California Lottery's mission is to provide supplemental funding to California public schools, including kindergarten and grades 1-12, community colleges, the California State University, the University of California, and other California public educational entities. The funds the Lottery transfers to public education total approximately \$1.8 billion for fiscal year 2018-19, which amounts to a modest percentage of education's overall budget. However, this funding is largely non-discretionary, meaning schools can use this for important, yet unfunded instructional programs they would otherwise not afford. During the same period the Lottery generated almost \$7 billion in sales, more than 95% of which goes back to the community in the form of prize payments, retailer commissions and bonuses, and contributions to education. The California Lottery urges its customers to play responsibly. Problem gambling resources are available to anyone at 1-800-GAMBLER.

www.calottery.com