



faith . discipline . patience

- Did you know the social security benefit receives a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) each year. For 2018 the adjustment was 2.0%. Over the last 15 years the cumulative COLA has been 35.8%. So, if you received \$2,000 per month 15 years ago you'd receive \$2,716 today.  
COLA: <https://www.ssa.gov/news/cola/>
- Did you know that in 2017 the maximum benefit for someone filing at age 70 was \$3,538 per month or \$42,456 per year. Not enough to live on for most but hardly pocket change either.  
<https://faq.ssa.gov/link/portal/34011/34019/Article/3735/What-is-the-maximum-Social-Security-retirement-benefit-payable>
- Did you know your first month of eligibility is the month after you turn 62 unless you were born on the first of the month in which case your eligibility is the month of your 62nd birthday.
- Did you know the social security payment arrives on the 2nd Wednesday of the month if your birth date is 1st – 10th, on the 3rd Wednesday if your birth date is 11th – 20th, or on 4th Wednesday if your birthdate is 21st – 31st.  
<https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10031.pdf>
- Did you know a surviving spouse or child may receive a special lump-sum death benefit of \$255. In 1954 the benefit was set in a range with the maximum not to exceed \$255. By 1974, due to annual adjustment the minimum benefit also reached \$255. Since then, the benefit has simply been a straight \$255.  
<https://www.ssa.gov/planners/survivors/ifyou7.html> <https://www.ssa.gov/history/lumpsum.html>
- Did you know someone who becomes eligible for social security benefit in 2018 (born 1956) will reach “Full Retirement Age” (FRA) at 66 years and 4 months. For participants born 1960 or later the FRA is age 67. Filers will still be able collect as early as age 62 or as late as age 70.
- Did you know 48% of women and 42% of men file for social security at the earliest age possible, 62? Only 4% of women and 2% of men wait for the maximum benefit at age 70.  
<https://money.usnews.com/money/retirement/articles/2015/06/01/the-most-popular-ages-to-sign-up-for-social-security>

- Did you know workers qualify for a disability benefit (disability defined as unable to perform any type of work)? The disability benefit becomes available six months after the disability began.
- Did you know that if you file for social security at age 65 or later the Medicare premium will automatically be deducted from your payment?

Jorgen Vik, CFP® CAP®  
CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™  
Partner  
SKV Group, LLC

CAR-0218-00108

1405 Rolkin Ct., Suite 202  
Charlottesville, VA 22911  
toll free 844.391.3610  
tel 434.328.8040  
fax 434.234.3789  
[www.skvgrp.net](http://www.skvgrp.net)