

How to open your child's *account*.

The part everyone gets stuck on — walked through plainly by a CPA who has done it for a real family. About 20 minutes.

Deciding to do this is easy. Knowing how is where people stall — the forms, the logins, the eligibility fine print. So here is the entire process, start to finish, in plain English. There are two ways to do it; pick whichever fits you.

1 · Before you start — have these ready

Five minutes of gathering saves an hour of frustration. You'll need:

- Your child's **Social Security number** (the account can't be opened without it).
- Your child claimed — or about to be claimed — as your **dependent** on your tax return.
- Your own **IRS online account** (you sign in with **ID.me**). If you don't have one, you'll set it up during the process — have a photo ID handy.
- Your child's **date of birth** — it determines which money they qualify for (see below).

2 · Who gets the free \$1,000?

THE \$1,000 FEDERAL SEED — ELIGIBILITY

To get the one-time **\$1,000** government deposit, your child must be a **U.S. citizen**, have a **Social Security number**, be **born in 2025–2028**, be claimed by you as a **qualifying dependent**, and have **no prior election** already made for them.

Born before 2025? Your child can still *have* a Trump Account — it just won't come with the federal \$1,000. But watch for charity-funded seeds: the Dell family donated \$6.25 billion to put **\$250** into millions of accounts for children 10 and under in lower-income communities.

ONE THING WORTH KNOWING

The **account itself can be opened at any time** — Form 4547 (below) is an *ongoing* way to open a Trump Account, not a one-time, expiring offer. What has a deadline is the **free \$1,000**: it's a temporary pilot, limited to children born **2025–2028**. In plain terms: *the form stays; the free money is the part with a clock on it*. If your child is eligible for the \$1,000, don't wait — that's the piece you can miss.

3 · Pick your path — two ways to open it

PATH A · THE WAY I DID IT

On your 2025 tax return

- 1** **Get IRS Form 4547** — the “Trump Account Election.” Download it free from the IRS at irs.gov/forms-pubs/about-form-4547 (the form and its instructions). Most tax software includes it, and your preparer can add it.
- 2** **Make the election for your child.** You provide your child's name and Social Security number and check the box electing to open the account and claim the seed.
- 3** **File the return as usual** — by the April 15, 2026 deadline for the 2025 tax year. The election rides along with your return.
- 4** **That's it.** The IRS processes the election and the account is established; the \$1,000 follows for eligible children.

Why this path: if you're already filing a return (and claiming the child), this folds right in — no separate website, no extra login. This is the route I walked a family through this year.

PATH B · NO TAX-RETURN NEEDED

Online at trumpaccounts.gov

- 1** Go to trumpaccounts.gov and sign in to your **IRS account using ID.me**. First time? You'll verify your identity with a photo ID — budget a few extra minutes.
- 2** Open **Form 4547 online** and **elect your child** — name and Social Security number.
- 3** **Submit the form.**
- 4** **Check the status** anytime in your account to confirm the election went through.

Why this path: you don't have to wait for tax season, and you can do it from your phone in one sitting.

4 · After you file — the activation step

Submitting Form 4547 makes the *election*; there's then a short **setup step** to finish. Once the IRS processes your election, you'll **receive an email with instructions** to complete the account setup — the Treasury has launched a **Trump Accounts App** for exactly this. Activation is rolling out to families in phases ahead of the program's **early-July 2026** launch, so don't worry if it isn't instant. Watch your inbox after you file, and follow the steps when the email arrives.

5 · Once it's active — what happens next

You don't pick investments or manage anything. The money is invested automatically in a **low-cost U.S. stock index fund** — a simple basket of America's biggest companies — so it can grow over the years.

To add money, you (and grandparents, and others) can contribute up to **\$5,000 a year** combined — any amount, whenever you can. You don't have to add a cent for the seed to grow; adding even a little just grows it faster.

6 · The mistakes that trip people up

- ✗ **No Social Security number yet.** You can't open the account without one — if your newborn doesn't have an SSN, request it first (you can do it at the hospital when you register the birth).
- ✗ **Not claiming the child as a dependent.** The \$1,000 election ties to claiming your child as a qualifying dependent. If you don't, the seed doesn't come.
- ✗ **Missing the activation email.** Filing the form isn't the last step — watch for the setup email and complete it, or the account stalls half-opened.
- ✗ **Trying twice.** Only one election per child — if a co-parent already made it, you don't do it again.
- ✗ **Assuming an older child qualifies for the \$1,000.** The federal seed is only for children born 2025–2028. Older kids can still have an account; just don't expect the government deposit.

THE OFFICIAL SOURCES — BOOKMARK THESE

This program is brand new and the rules and tools are still settling, so always check the official sources before you file:

- **The form:** irs.gov/forms-pubs/about-form-4547 (Form 4547 and instructions)
- **To open online:** trumpaccounts.gov
- **Program details:** irs.gov/trumpaccounts

When in doubt, ask your tax preparer — this takes them two minutes.

Educational and general in nature — not tax, legal, or investment advice for your specific situation. “Trump Accounts” is the official federal program name; the program, IRS Form 4547, the activation app, eligibility rules, and the online process are new as of 2025–2026 and may change. Verify current steps and requirements at trumpaccounts.gov and irs.gov, and consult a qualified tax professional before filing. Links are to official government sites for your convenience; the Institute is not affiliated with the IRS or the U.S. Treasury. © 2026 The Baratelli Institute · Mentoring at Scale · baratelliinstitute.com