

## PLAY 03

# Lock in LTV

Creating repetition and loyalty from returning customers



# Approach

Customer lifetime value (LTV) is the single most important factor in predicting the health of a business. But regular purchasing behaviors have been disrupted by the COVID-19 crisis, creating unprecedented uncertainty for restaurants. It's not enough to get customers — new or old — to visit your business once. To Emerge Stronger, restaurants need to grow LTV, a much harder task after a “reset.” **These early repeat interactions offer a unique opportunity to identify and reward loyalty** — brands who succeed have the opportunity to achieve higher LTVs than before.

Prior to the COVID-19 disruption, just 20% of customers drove as much as 80% of revenue. In the period to come, we expect even greater revenue concentration as consumers seek “familiar” and “safe” dining experiences, resulting in a reduction in “trial,” even from customers with a long-term relationship with your brand. The first experience — and your ability to personally compel repeat purchasing thereafter — will directly impact the speed of your recovery.

It starts with nailing the dining experience. So, while these playbooks are mostly focused on marketing, we will begin by taking a look at how operations may need to change as you reopen. From there, your focus should turn to data capture and ultimately, personalized “lifecycle marketing” in order to double down on the customers most likely to return. In short, this strategy requires **high-touch personalized outreach after every single purchase**, most of which can be fully automated.

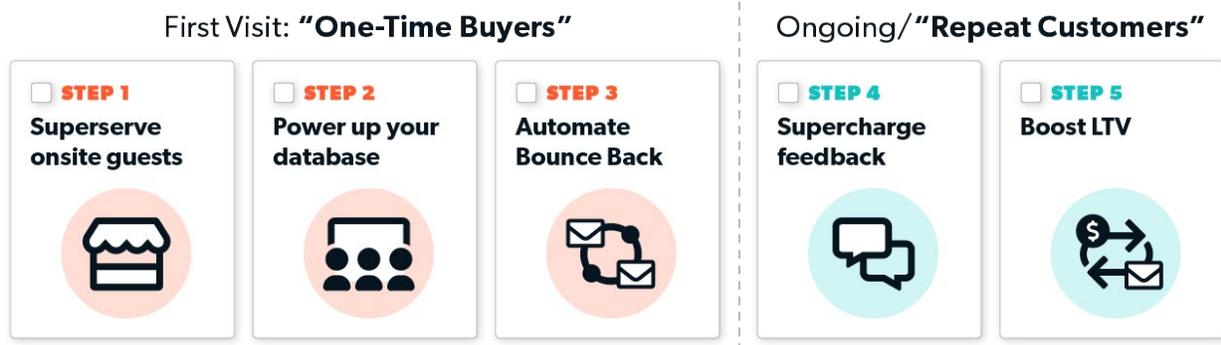
**PRO TIP:** Customer lifetime value is the projected amount of revenue a customer will generate over their lifetime at your business. The formula:

**LTV = (# Purchases / Yr) x (\$ Average Check Size) x (Years Before Churning)**

Maximizing lifetime value focuses on building your existing customer base by selling more to them, rather than attempting to acquire new, one-time buyers.

# Implementation

In [Play #1](#), we talked about a comprehensive digital ordering strategy. In [Play #2](#), we laid out a marketing plan for reattracting customers. Turning these customers into repeat visitors requires a combination of both. In Play #3, we'll focus on what to do next. Spoiler alert, it's all about increasing LTV through lifecycle marketing. To make it easy, we broke it down into a few simple steps.

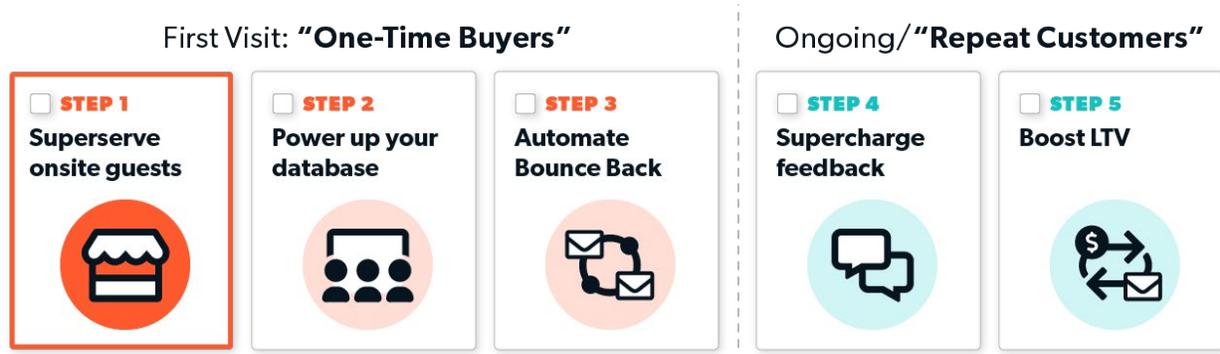


Steps to "Lock in LTV":

1. Superserve onsite guests
2. Power up your database
3. Turn one-time buyers into repeat customers
4. Supercharge feedback responsiveness
5. Boost customer lifetime value (LTV)

**STEP 1.**

# Superserve onsite guests



The decision to reopen is not just a financial one; it must be made in alignment with your brand principles and with consumer expectations in mind. Those consumer expectations have seemingly changed overnight, from heightened focus on safety and sanitation to increased demand for clear communication and even new technologies to support dining at a safe distance. So, how should a restaurant think through this? Let's break it down.

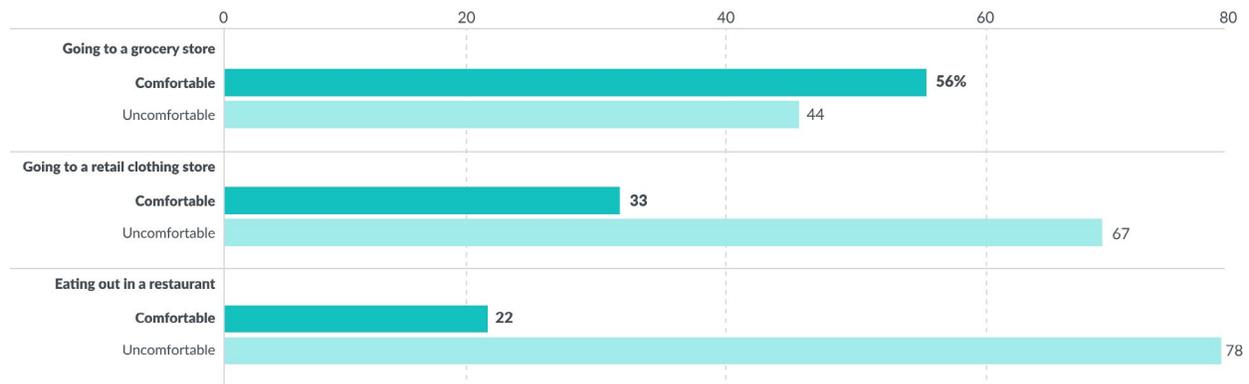
## Living Up to Your Customers' Expectations

According to an early May 2020 poll, 78% of consumers say they would be uncomfortable eating at a sit-down restaurant. Only 22% say they would feel comfortable — fewer than those who feel comfortable going to a grocery store (56%) or a retail clothing store (33%)<sup>7</sup>. Even if you get the first visit, customers' comfort with that experience will play a huge factor in your odds of seeing them again.

<sup>7</sup> [Americans widely oppose reopening most businesses, despite easing of restrictions in some states, Post-U. Md. poll finds](#), The Washington Post, May 2020.

## A majority is comfortable going to a grocery store now; larger majorities are uncomfortable going to stores or eating out

Question: Regardless of current restrictions in your area, would you feel comfortable or uncomfortable \_\_\_\_\_ at this time?



Note: "No opinion" not shown.

EMILY GUSKIN/[THE WASHINGTON POST](#)

To respond to those with heightened concerns, you must be highly transparent and overly communicative. Customers expect to easily understand how your restaurant is adhering to (or going beyond) government regulations and what specific precautions you've established to keep them and your staff healthy.

As you reopen, consumers will also expect restaurants to implement new food safety and sanitation protocols, including employee health monitoring and clear reinforcement of social distancing. We recommend referring to the latest restaurant and retail [FDA guidelines](#) for specific (and constantly evolving) guidance as well as the [National Restaurant](#)

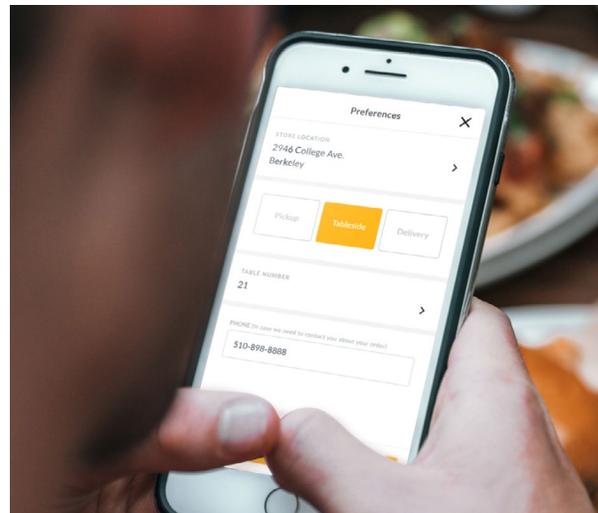


[Associations COVID-19 Reopening Guidance](#) for restaurants when developing your operational reopening plans. Fox Rotschild and the NYC Hospitality Alliance also put out a very [comprehensive guide on the topic](#).

## Technology

The right new technology deployed in-restaurant can reduce the need for person-to-person contact (with both staff and other guests) and reduce crowding in waiting areas. A few key technologies your restaurant should consider implementing:

- Advanced digital ordering or streamlined, contactless ordering at the table (“tableside” or “bring your own device” ordering) makes it easy for customers to dine without having to wait in a crowded line or interact with staff or hardware (e.g. kiosks) which carry the (perhaps unfair) perception of disease transfer.



- At the least, contactless payment options (such as ApplePay) help servers and guests minimize handoffs (cash, signing credit card receipts, etc.).
- A virtual waitlist and/or reservation system with SMS functionality can minimize the time people might spend crowded around a host stand (especially when indoors) while waiting to be seated.

**PRO TIP:** Consider promoting exclusive access to reservations or waitlist priority to VIPs or other special guests.

- Mobile apps or other digital solutions can facilitate touchless loyalty reward redemption (this is certainly no time for punch cards).

Of course, it goes without saying, there continues to be a need for technology to engage guests outside the dining room as well. Additional technologies you should consider offering include:

- Streamlined, contactless direct ordering for delivery, curbside and pickup, making it easy for customers to complete an order off-premise (see [Play #1](#)).
- Full visibility into the guest experience across both in-store and online systems.
- Segmentation of customers to craft tailored marketing messages, offerings and promotions.
- Multi-channel automation (email, push notifications, SMS) to drive engagement through personalization.
- Reviews connected seamlessly to the guest profiles that help you monitor and react to customer sentiment and tailor future interactions.
- Advanced campaign tracking to measure the ROI of your campaigns.

For more information on ordering experience and how to craft a winning digital strategy, please refer to [Play #1](#) of this Playbook.

## Extra Love

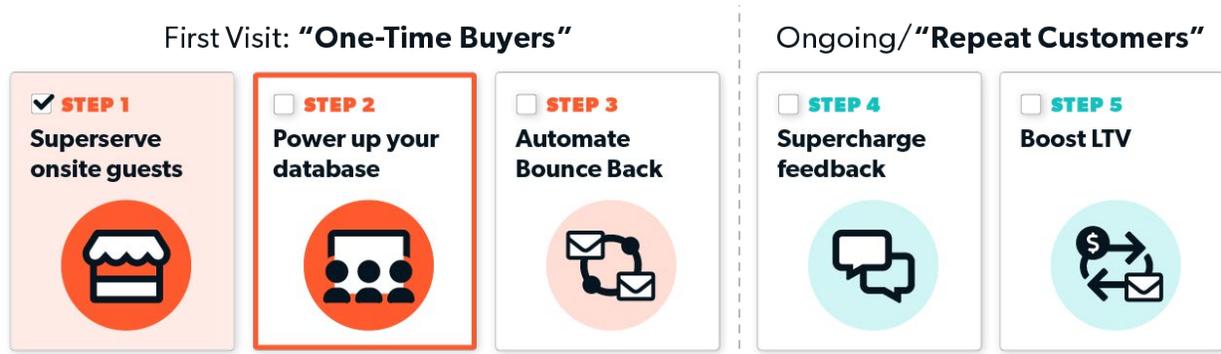
Despite the seemingly endless list of to-dos, the crisis has presented a big time opportunity for restaurants. Consumers' attention to safety, customer service, and quality is at a level never before seen. Paired with reduced dine-in capacity, restaurants have the opportunity to stand out and make a lasting impression. In short, every single visit is an opportunity to **super-serve and delight guests**.

The challenge and opportunity is to deliver an exceptional experience that locks the customer into a connection with your brand that previously, may have taken multiple visits to achieve. Now is the time to capitalize on this opportunity and deliver a delightful, “wow” experience that keeps them coming back.

### **Ideas to delight diners:**

- Ask managers to personally welcome and thank every single diner for coming in during this time (from a distance, of course).
- If you use a reservation or tableside ordering system, identify VIPs and offer a personal touch during their experience.
- Make every visit memorable by bringing a free surprise to the table, for example, a free appetizer, dessert or item of apparel (a restaurant branded face covering for example) or put a heartfelt note in to-go boxes and takeout bags.
- Let your brand shine by updating your menu to reflect customer’s needs during this challenging time (i.e.: “Comfort Bowls”)
- Dedicate staff and a separate physical location to pick-ups and deliveries so not to interfere with dine-in guests’ experiences.
- Consider fun ways to really go above and beyond for your most valued customers. (i.e. consider a contest with the chance to name a limited time menu item targeted at VIPs who dine during your reopening weekend).

Regardless of how you approach delighting guests after you reopen, it’s worth noting the restaurant of the future has changed fundamentally. Now is a great time to rethink how you communicate with customers before, during and after every visit.

**STEP 2.****Power up your database**

Most loyalty programs capture fewer than 10% of total customers and struggle to keep even half of those enrollments active. For a business that sees 100K unique consumers per year, only 10K will have ever signed up for loyalty and only 5K (5%) are actively sharing purchase data that can be used for marketing. Even if the program is doing its job, the overall magnitude of impact is severely limited. Now is the time to focus on amplifying those numbers – even if it costs money. It's worth spending \$10 to acquire six more \$40 visits (\$240) this year.

Category leaders prioritize loyalty: Starbucks captures 44% of all purchases through their loyalty program and has more than 19M rewards members<sup>8</sup>; Chipotle has enrolled 12M loyalty members in the last two years alone<sup>9</sup>. To compete with these leaders, you too must prioritize loyalty capture. Not only does loyalty/CRM empower your team to better understand guest behavior, it enables your lowest-cost, most effective marketing channel. That's because engaging repeat customers is cheaper and more effective than acquiring new customers. Said differently, the bigger your customer database, the greater the impact of your marketing.

<sup>8</sup> Starbucks Corp (SBUX) Q2 2020 Earnings Call Transcript: SBUX earnings call for the period ending March 29, 2020.

<sup>9</sup> Chipotle Mexican Grill Inc (CMG) Q1 2020 Earnings Call Transcript: CMG earnings call for the period ending March 31, 2020.

**PRO TIP:** Hear how Chipotle learned from its lack of customer data following their 2015 food safety crisis and invested heavily in digital, loyalty, and CRM – an investment paying off in the current crisis, in this [QSR Magazine interview](#) with Thanx CEO, Zach Goldstein (start at 13:30).

### Loyalty benefits:



Loyalty programs allow you to track customer behavior so you can better understand your guests (for instance, to know for sure if they do or do not return). You can use that data to send highly personalized messages that go beyond opens and clicks to measure actual spend.



Loyalty programs allow you to create more unique and engaging ways for guests to interact with your brand that drive brand affinity.



In the periods before and after redeeming a reward, customers purchase more than usual (higher frequency and higher spend per purchase).

### There are two ways to acquire customers into your loyalty program:

**01**

Automatically capture 100% of ordering customers by integrating loyalty into your online experience (see [Play #1](#)) including off-premises online ordering (pickup/delivery/curbside) and in-store digital “tableside”.

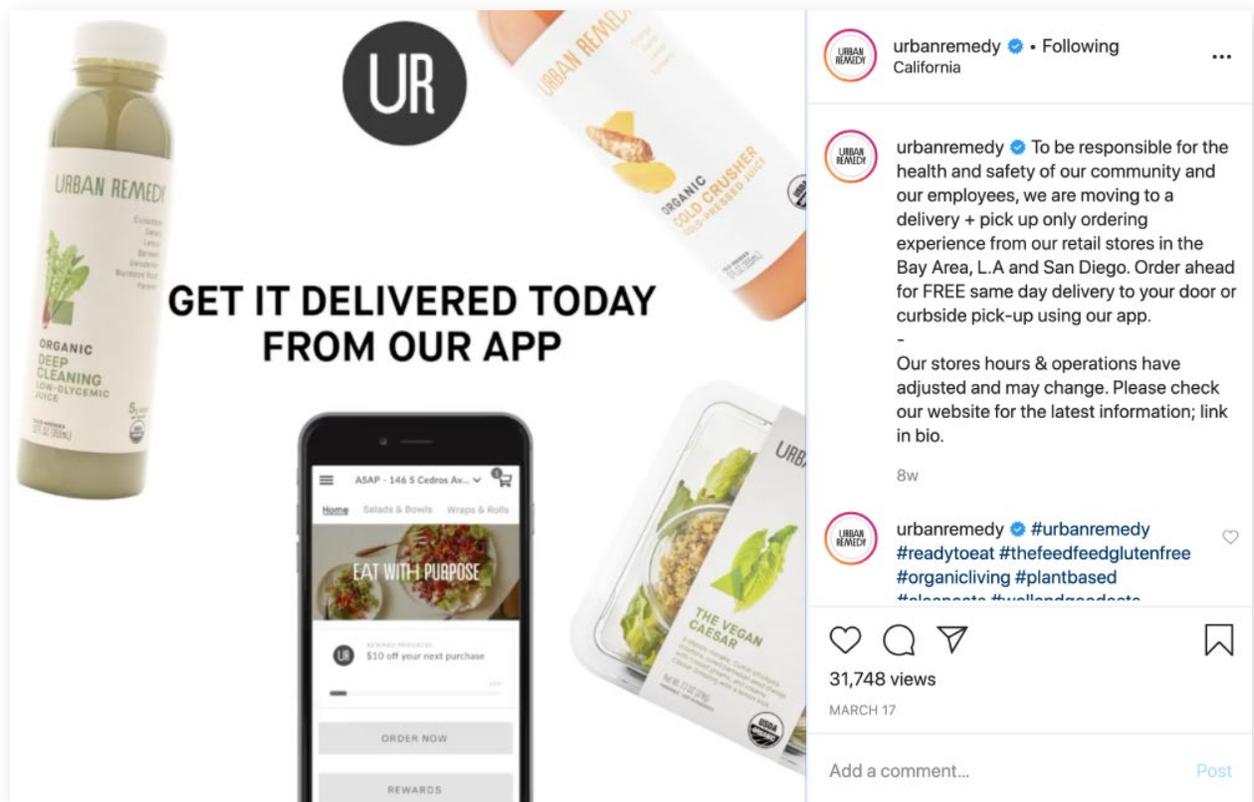
**02**

Promote consistently in the dining room and through existing digital channels (e.g. email). There’s a reason CVS has one of the largest loyalty databases in the country – they prompt consumers at **every** purchase.

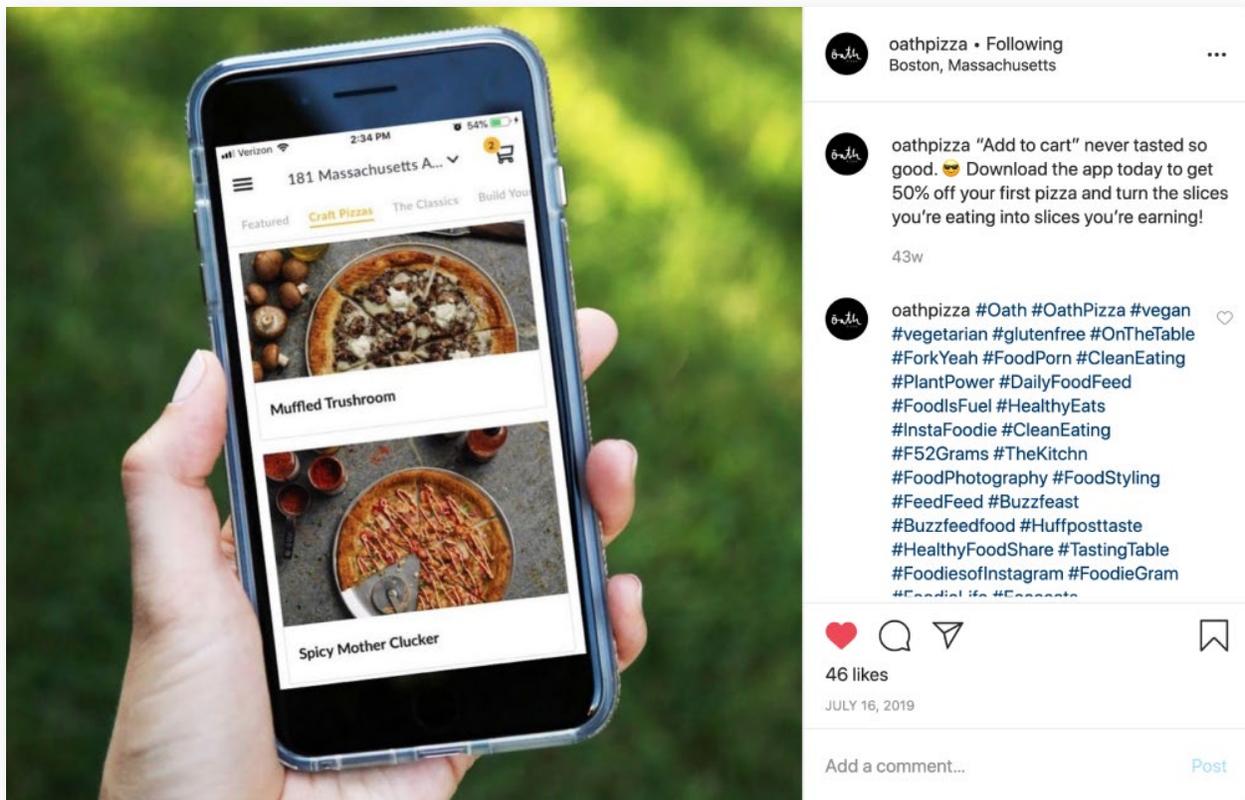
## Ordering Enrollment

The simplest way to gather guest data is to implement a contactless ordering method that is connected with your CRM. For businesses with online ordering integrated to Thanx, database enrollment has grown 500%.

When digital purchases automatically enroll a consumer into loyalty, you get a complete omnichannel view into that consumer's future purchases for use in driving LTV. It's much easier to justify strong incentives (e.g. free delivery, \$10 off your first order, BOGO pizza) to encourage a first online purchase when you can easily measure future spending.



Source: [Urban Remedy Instagram](#), March 2020.



Source: [Oath Pizza Instagram](#), July 2019.

## In-Restaurant Enrollment

Not every guest will order online or see your digital promotions. That's why it's important to make sure every guest who dines-in enrolls in loyalty, especially now. When a guest is in your dining room, they're likely easier to persuade. With the right promotional tactics in place, you can drive higher enrollment, increased engagement and motivate ongoing participation.

Staff engagement is the #1 driver of in-store sign-ups and will be more important than ever when reopening your doors. In our experience at Thanx, "text to sign-up" is a low-friction ask from staff members and is easy to promote on point of purchase signage.



T-shirt promoting loyalty program



Flyer promoting easy ways to join program

The more awareness a customer has of the benefits of joining, the more likely they are to participate.

For restaurants who were able to retain staff, for the first time in a long time, while in-store traffic has been limited, you have the time to train on the importance of loyalty enrollment. For restaurants rehiring furloughed or laid off workers, it's an opportunity to uniformly reeducate on easy ways to push signups. The messaging doesn't have to be complicated; **loyalty members leave higher tips and higher customer satisfaction scores**. Some of the verbal cues we've seen work incredibly well:

- "Can I add a free dessert to your order?"

- “Would you like a free appetizer on your next visit?”
- “Do you have any rewards to redeem today?”

All of these can be followed by instructions to a) text to signup, b) download an app, or c) visit an enrollment webpage on their phone. No physical interaction necessary.

**PRO TIP:** When redeeming a reward, reminding customers that referrals earn them progress is a great way to leverage your loyals’ networks to boost signups. If you’re offering a birthday reward, when you’re notified of a patron’s birthday, encourage enrollment so you can issue them their deserved birthday treat!

Additional staff engagement tips include:

- Make loyalty program training a core component to your existing onboarding process for every person you hire and operationalize refreshers every 6 months.
- Ensure staff members are equipped with proper promotional language and example scripts.
- Empower General Managers and/or location managers to track and test for compliance.
- If consistent with restaurant policies, use your staff’s networks to spread the word. They, too, can earn program perks from friends and family referrals, once a sign-up and transaction has been made.
- Leverage unique sign-up keywords per location and/or offer a compelling reward or contest for staff members. Reward top-performing locations monthly to encourage sustained performance. Share best practices from high-performing locations across the organization.

- The fun doesn't have to be limited to internal staff. Create a competition for guests. For example, any member who enrolls in June gets entered in a drawing to win free food for a year.

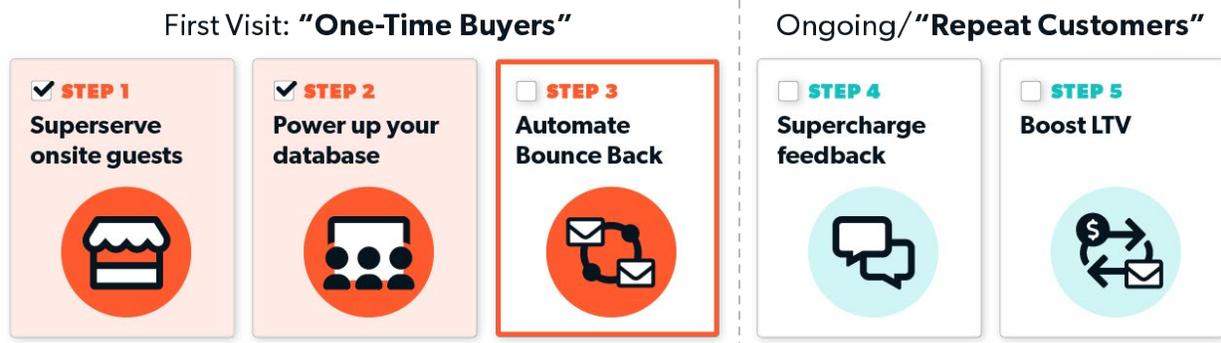


Source: True Food Kitchen email campaign.

**PRO TIP:** If you use a reservation system or a WiFi marketing program, these can also be great channels to capture guest data. While future purchases won't be automatically tracked, as with Tableside service or loyalty, you can at least communicate with those customers and encourage them to opt-in to your loyalty program in the future.

### STEP 3.

## Turn one-time buyers into repeat customers



This is why you invest in getting customers into your CRM — because now you can actually engage with them personally and measure your repeat purchase rates. Traffic is going to remain challenged for a while after stores reopen; even with government constraints, most restaurants are not anticipating “at capacity” dining rooms. Since any guest who dines with you in these first few months has a higher-

than-average likelihood to return, a Bounce Back campaign can play a powerful role in motivating repetition.

A Bounce Back campaign is a multi-channel communication sent shortly after a customer's first purchase (in this case, their first purchase after the COVID-19 crisis), intended to prompt an additional purchase by the customer. Bounce Back campaigns often include information about related menu items, as well as incentives that take effect after repeat purchases. In Expert Mode, Bounce Back campaigns can be set up with progressively escalating incentives to reduce cost while maximizing impact.

Why focus your LTV marketing on Bounce Back campaigns?

- Immediately after a purchase, your brand is more relevant and top-of-mind than other brands competing for that guest's attention, which means messages have higher impact and are more cost-effective.

The image displays three examples of Bounce Back campaign messages for a pizza brand, each with a specific audience targeting and a corresponding incentive. Each message includes a 'View your reward' button and a small image of a pizza or drink.

WHEN:	WHEN:	WHEN:
<b>Campaign Audience:</b> Customers who made a purchase 2 days ago and haven't returned	<b>Campaign Audience:</b> Customers who made a purchase 5 days ago and haven't returned	<b>Campaign Au</b> Customers who ma 8 days ago and hav
<b>THEN SEND:</b> As a thank you for stopping in the other day, come back in before Friday for a free soft drink.	<b>THEN SEND:</b> Hey Jill, thanks for coming in recently! Stop back in for a free kid's pizza any time this week.	<b>THEN SEI</b> Hey Jill, let's keep the good times rolling! Come back for a free side on us this
<a href="#">View your reward</a>	<a href="#">View your reward</a>	<a href="#">View your reward</a>

- Better yet, if you delivered a great experience (a 9 or 10 on the Net Promoter System scale), the customer is already positively predisposed to your brand – but that doesn't mean they will necessarily return. You don't have to convince them of the benefit, they already know – but you do need to remain top-of-mind.
- Because Bounce Back campaigns can be fully automated, you can drive revenue without having to put in a lot of work. Neat!

**HEADS UP:** Bounce Back campaigns in Thanx are set up as Automated Campaigns. Schedule the follow-up to occur no more than 24 hours after the purchase when your brand is still top-of-mind for the guest. **Set up Bounce Back campaigns prior to reopening to ensure that none of your valued guests who've returned post-crisis get lost in the mix!**

**HOW TO GUIDE:**  
Create an automated campaign

YOU CAN CLICK THESE 

**(PLEASE NOTE: YOU MUST BE LOGGED IN TO THE THANX DASHBOARD TO VIEW HELP ARTICLES)**

## EXPERT MODE

Like with any campaign, the more relevant and personalized the message and the incentive, the better. Not only does personalization increase engagement, it can also significantly lower cost. For Bounce Back campaigns, we recommend, at minimum, personalizing your outreach to your VIPs.

**“VIP - Made a Purchase”** – VIP customers who have come back to your restaurant at least once since your reopening.

**Why?**

**High Value:** Your VIPs contribute the majority of your revenue. Now that they have shown willingness to purchase post-crisis, it’s critical that you maximize the value of every single one.

**Incentive:**

**Large:** VIPs who return to their historical spending will justify the extra love in no time.

**Message:**

Tailor your message to recognize that they are your most important customers.

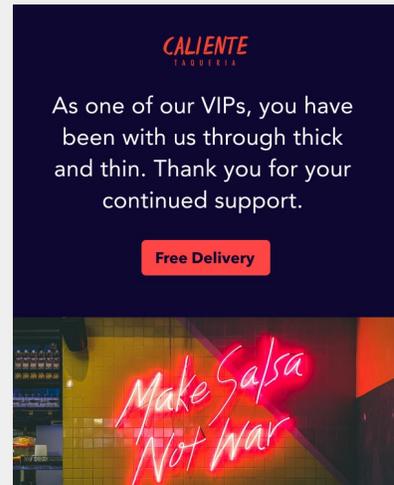
**“Non-VIP - Made a Purchase”** – Customers who have come back to your restaurant at least once since your reopening.

**Why?**

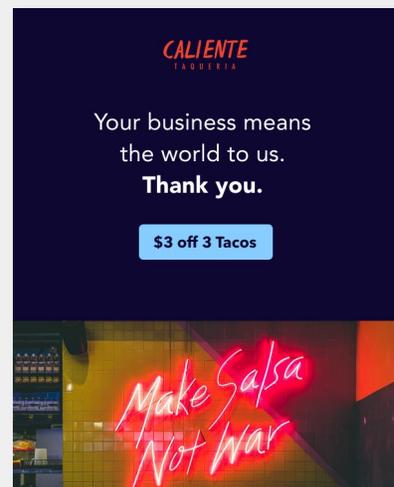
**High Propensity:** These individuals have shown a willingness to purchase post-crisis, capitalize on that.

**Incentive:**

**Medium:** While these aren’t your VIPs, they have demonstrated willingness to come in during this time. Give them a reason to come back!



“As one of our VIPs, you have been with us through thick and thin. Thank you for your continued support.”



“Your business means the world to us. Thank you.”

**Message:**

Thank them for their support in such a turbulent period; express gratitude with a medium incentive to return.

For your VIPs, we also recommend considering ways to make these individuals feel special above and beyond what you might normally offer. For example:

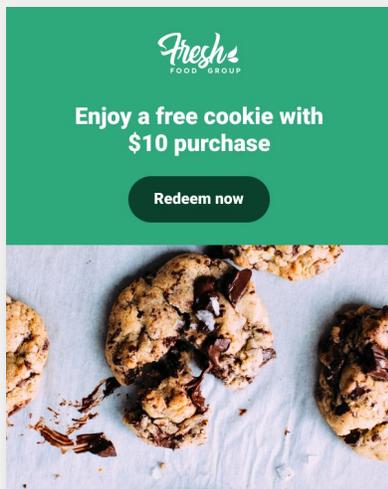
- Considering having a member of your executive team call your top 100 customers thanking them for coming in and to let them know that their next meal is on you.
- Send a personal email inviting your top guests to a special digital or dine-in event, for example, a sommelier wine tasting paired with a 50% off meal for two or a VIP exclusive trivia night with prizes.
- Many reservation systems have enabled private links to special VIPs reservations that avoid lines and allow them to access limited capacity.
- Send a personalized note from the CEO thanking them for their purchase.
- If you are having trouble filling up capacity during slow times, allow VIPs to rent out the entire restaurant for a “social distance” party (in accordance with local guidelines).

While this might go without saying, follow up with VIPs who don't make a repeat purchase, ideally at least three follow-ups (for example: the day after, 7 days after, 30 days after). Automate these additional follow-ups with different or progressively larger incentives.

For your non-VIPs, which will make up the majority of your customers, we recommend iterative testing to find the right approach. Because this is a large group (much larger than your VIPs), you have a larger sample size to really hone in on what works and what doesn't work. We suggest at least a three week A/B testing program with a different approach in each iteration (different subject line, different creative, different message, different incentive). Here's an example of how you might A/B test different incentives:

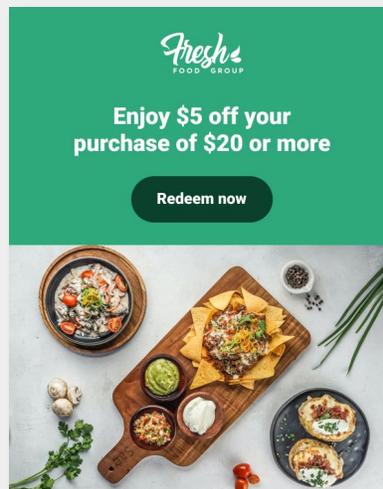
### Test A:

Free cookie with \$10 purchase



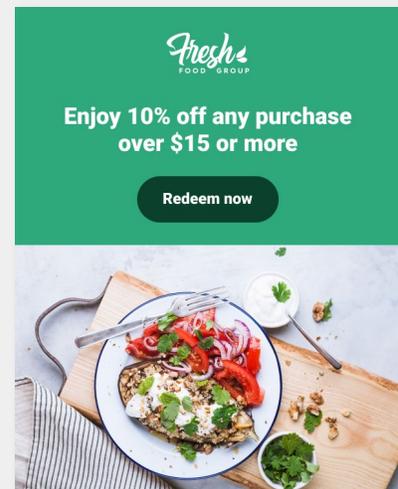
### Test B:

\$5 off your purchase of \$20 or more



### Test C:

10% off any purchase over \$15 or more

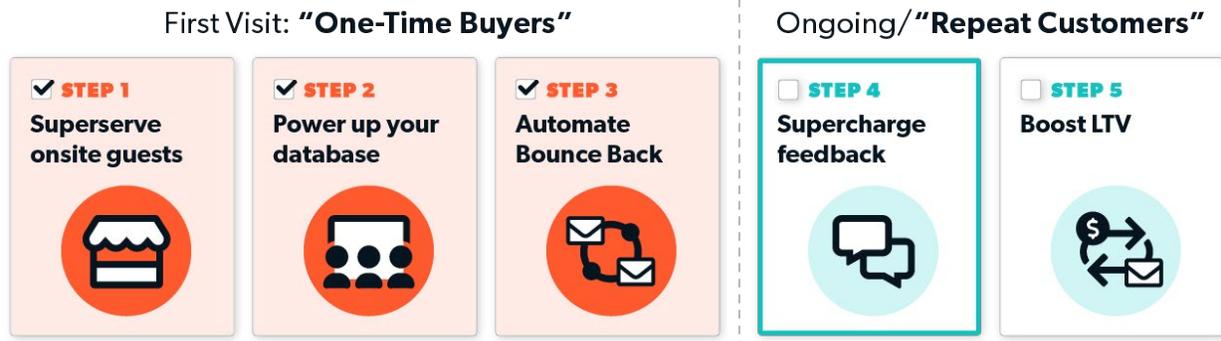


Once you have run the three week testing program, determine which approach converts at the highest rate and then automate that campaign to non-VIPs after the first purchase.

**HOW TO GUIDE:**  
Create an automated campaign

## STEP 4.

# Supercharge feedback responsiveness



There's a reason restaurants "touch tables" – you value the feedback and opportunity to "make it right" when service has gone sideways. And your customers value it too.

**7%**  
**MORE LIKELY  
TO RETURN**

When asked for feedback, consumers are **7% more likely to return** (independent of whether their feedback was positive or negative – though obviously higher for positive sentiments)

**14%**  
**MORE LIKELY  
TO RETURN**

When consumers receive a personalized response to feedback, they are **14% more likely to return**

**23%**  
**HIGHER RATE  
OF RETURN**

When the response is accompanied by an incentive, consumers **return 23% more often** (independent of the size of the incentive)

With so much uncertainty, it's more important than ever to **listen & learn** from your customers and **respond personally**.

## Listen & learn

Reviewing feedback and guest sentiment can help you understand your guests' perspective and how their attitudes have changed since the crisis started. One of the simplest ways to measure sentiment is by measuring net promoter score (NPS).

### WHAT IS NPS?

Net Promoter Score (NPS) is a metric for measuring customer satisfaction. Across a wide variety of industries, businesses with higher NPS consistently outperform their competitors. The score is calculated by asking your customers just one question: "How likely are you to recommend us to a friend?" Top ratings represent promoters while bottom ratings represent detractors. Your ultimate score is the percentage of responses who are promoters minus the percentage of responses that are detractors: % promoters - % detractors = NPS. [Learn more.](#)

Since the crisis started, NPS on Thanx across our food industry customers has stayed relatively stable at ~67 which is roughly neutral. Restaurants should aspire to do better than the average benchmark seeking an average score in the 80+ range.

Net Promoter Scores, can measure trends by location to understand top performing and low performing locations. NPS can also be tracked over time to understand pre-crisis consumer brand perception before and after their return to dine-in.

## Example NPS trend by week

Week 6 represents the start of the crisis

**HOW TO GUIDE:**  
Review your NPS score



Another easy way to understand consumer trends and to get a sense for what consumers are focusing on during the crisis is to analyze trends in keywords. Try searching for common COVID-19 crisis related words such as “safe,” “safety,” “clean,” “cleaning,” and even keywords mentioning new initiatives such as “contactless,” “ordering,” and “curbside,” to get a sense for how new processes and technologies are performing.

10	Erin	Dedication of being open, in a <b>safe</b> way, durir
10	Macy	Social distancing and <b>safety</b> were prominent :
10	Sam	<b>Safe</b> minimal contact pickup!

**HOW TO GUIDE:**  
Review feedback by keyword

## Respond

In ordinary times, reading and responding to every review and piece of feedback is grueling and perhaps unrealistic depending on your resourcing — for the next several months, it could be the difference between winning or losing repeat customers.

We recommend prioritizing your feedback as follows:

- Focus on your detractors first, these are people at risk of not coming back.
- Follow up with your passive customers to learn what you can do better.
- Don't forget about your promoters, reach out to let them know how much you appreciate their feedback.

**HEADS UP:** Thanx merchants can identify critical feedback by selecting the “Critical/ Important” feedback checkbox in the feedback portion of the Thanx dashboard to filter on feedback that is negative or represents a significant change in consumer sentiment.

The screenshot shows a feedback card for a customer named Aaron N. with a VIP badge. The card displays a 'Negative Ranking' section with a green box for '10 Previous' and a red box for '3 Today', with an arrow pointing from 10 to 3. A 'QUICK REPLY' button is visible. A warning icon and text state: 'Critical: This is a valuable customer who has historically given you positive reviews until this negative one. A sincere apology now can make a difference.'

**HOW TO GUIDE:**  
Use critical/important feedback filters

Respond personally to every customer who has shared feedback, not just the negative ratings. Let them know you value the time it took them to reply and the impact of their visit on your business.

- For those customers with a negative experience, especially those who have

high lifetime spend, high frequency, and who have been promoters in the past, we recommend granting a full reward.

- Guests with average spend or frequency, who have been promoters in the past with a recent negative rating, should receive partial progress towards a reward.
- Everyone else who provides written feedback should receive a response, though a reward is not necessary.

**HOW TO GUIDE:**  
Respond to customer feedback

**HEADS UP:** Thanx merchants can add a link to a standard survey in your response to collect even deeper information about how you can improve the experience.

**John's message to you**

Used mobile app to pay at the table. Worked great!

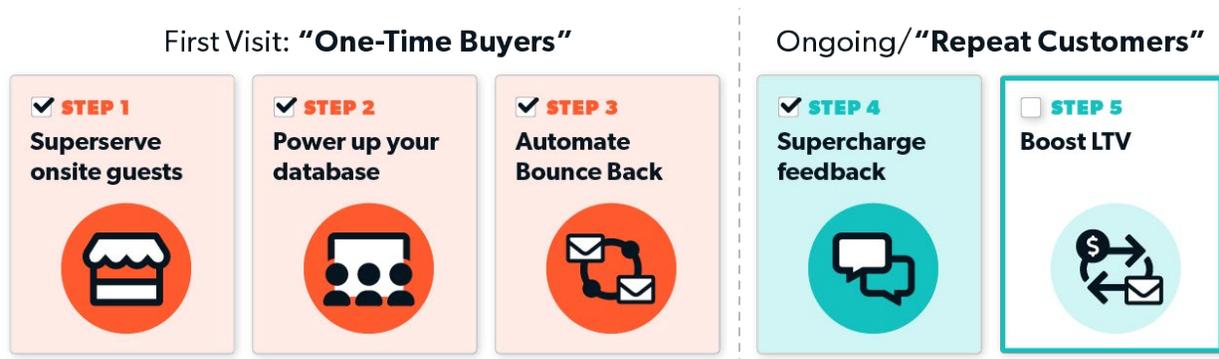
**Your reply**

Thank you John, so glad you enjoyed it! I'd love to learn more about your experience. Would you be willing to take this brief survey?

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CJQQBDX>

## EXPERT MODE

For restaurants looking to go beyond NPS and written feedback, there are a number of in-depth feedback tools available on the market. We suggest looking into tools such as [Merchant Centric](#), [Tattle](#) and [Delighted](#).

**STEP 5.****Boost customer lifetime value (LTV)**

Once you have automated first visit follow-up outreach, now the fun can really begin! Fostering customers who keep coming back time and time again should be a top priority for any restaurant, crisis or not. But you can't continue to offer an incentive for every single purchase and run a sustainable business. That's why, after the second visit, we recommend additional automated programs that encourage the long-term engagement of your repeat customers. Let's dive in!

**Go beyond Bounce Back campaigns**

As noted in [Step #3](#), Bounce Back campaigns encourage customers who have made a first purchase to come back and make a second one. Like Bounce Back campaigns, you can set-up Automated Campaigns based on the specific behavior that you want to incentivize beyond that first visit. With these Automated Campaigns focused on long-term engagement, you can encourage any cohort of customers to take a specific action. For example:

- Reward customers who have come back more than 5 times and have spent over \$500, with a free entree and dessert on the house.
- Reward customers who make a second purchase with a bogo deal, i.e. buy 4 salads in the next 90 days, get your 5th salad for free.

- Reward any customer who has made at least two purchases since the COVID-19 crisis who reaches \$150 in spend with \$25 off their next visit.

These kinds of programs encourage customers to keep making purchases in order to reach new rewards and can be customized to drive a specific behavior.

Benefits:

- Because these campaigns are fully automated as customers meet specific criteria, the implementation process is quick and easy.
- These programs are easy to budget because you can ensure qualifying purchase price to guarantee you're making a minimum profit.
- These campaigns are highly flexible to drive the specific activity desired from a subset of customers.

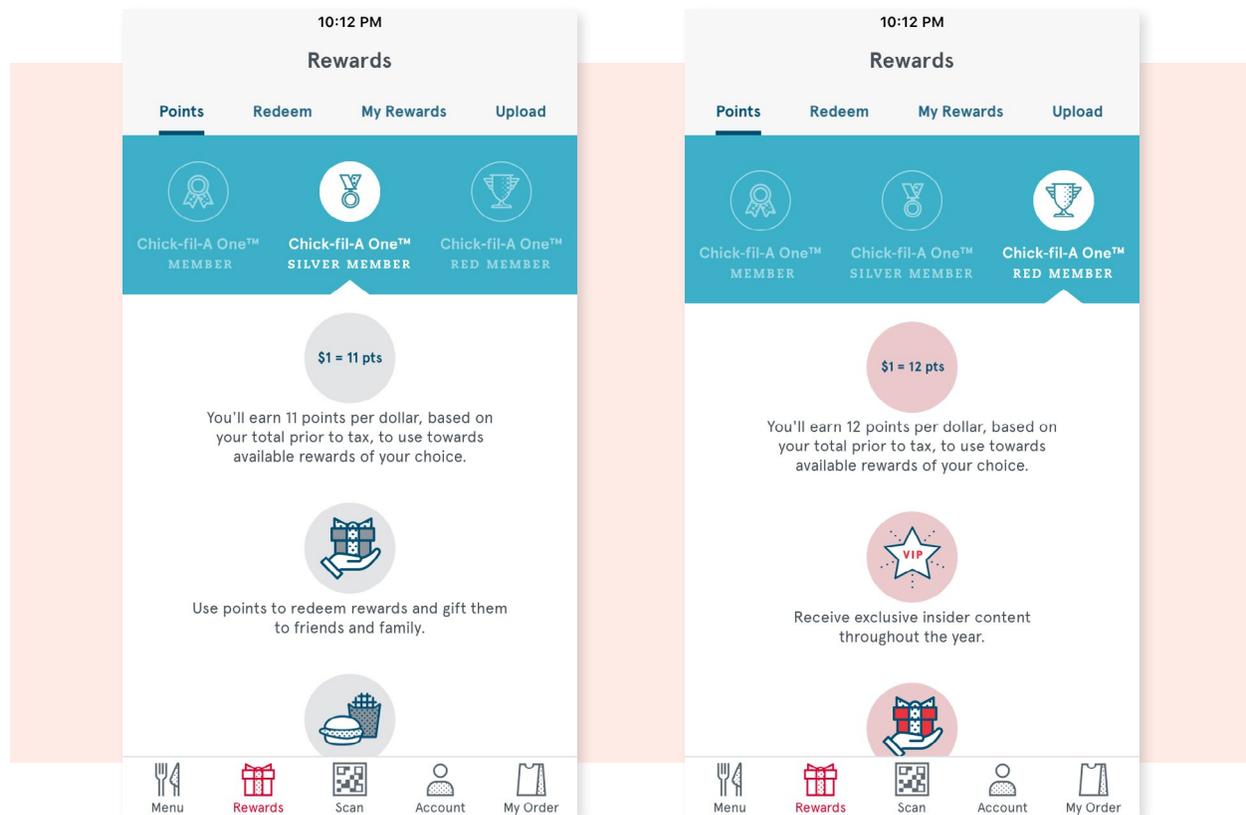
**HOW TO GUIDE:**  
Create an automated campaign

## Consider a Tiers-based Program:

A tiered loyalty program is a type of membership program where customers enjoy permanent benefits based upon their annual spend. Tiers programs focus on rewarding regular customers who have a long lifetime engagement with the goal of increasing their spend. Tiers can create stronger brand affinity by making guests feel special, like they are “part of the family.” Tiers also offer the opportunity to enable earnable incentives that go beyond what can be bought; Experiential rewards, such as access to special events, skip the line, or exclusive swag, are worthwhile incentives to consider when creating your tiers program.

Tiers have the following benefits:

- Tiers engage repeat customers and give the brand an opportunity to shine. Restaurants can offer unique names for reward levels and use a new layer of color scheme and imagery to engage guests in a fun way.



Source: Chick-fil-A Mobile App

- By attaching exclusive benefits, like special events or free delivery, to certain tier levels, guests will favor you over the competition, as they receive additional perks for their purchases.
- By reviewing the activity and aspiration of members by rank, companies can better understand and market to them.
- Because not all of the benefits are monetary, tiers can be a cost effective way to drive additional visits from repeat customers.

Use tiers as an opportunity to differentiate your brand and drive increased spend. Be sure to promote the benefits your customers can reach. Each status should have a minimum of 2-3 privileges in addition to your core program membership tier so that members who obtain a higher rank will push their way even higher to achieve more rewards and get an even better status.

*Healthy just got even more*  
**REWARDING**

Download our free mobile app and become a True Insider loyalty member.  
Sign up is easy. Earning rewards is even easier.

**1. Join:**  
Download the free True Food Kitchen app

**2. Register:**  
Create an account and register a credit card

**3. Earn & Dine:**  
Pay using a registered credit card and your spending progress will be automatically tracked

**SIGN UP**

*Already a member? Sign in [here](#).*

**DINE YOUR WAY THROUGH REWARDS**

*Receive a \$15 reward for every \$150 you spend!*

**Bronze Tier Rewards:**  
*(Earned immediately upon sign up)*

- \$10 off purchase of \$25+ (welcome offer)
- Complimentary birthday dessert
- Special event invitations

**Silver Tier Rewards:**  
*(Earned upon spending \$500 annually)*

Everything in Bronze, plus:

- Early reservations to community dinners
- One complimentary seasonal starter per year when you reach Silver Tier

**Gold Tier Rewards:**  
*(Earned upon spending \$1,500 annually)*

Everything in Silver, plus:

- One complimentary seasonal pizza per year when you reach Gold Tier
- Priority seating (15 minutes, parties of 4 or fewer)
- One \$20 online merchandise store credit per year when you reach Gold Tier

Source: [True Food Kitchen website](#)

**HOW TO GUIDE:**  
**Set-up tiers**

## Surprise and Delight

An unexpected treat can make a customer's day, leading to an emotional connection with your brand. The element of surprise, paired with the delight of the reward, leads to stronger relationships with your repeat customers.

Surprise and Delight campaigns work as you might expect – they allow you to surprise and delight customers, unexpectedly rewarding them with incentives of your choosing. The reward that is offered can be anything that you choose: a free burger, a side of fries, or a free milkshake. You can use the rewards to introduce customers to new menu items, try out a new store, or come by at lunch instead of breakfast – it's flexible marketing designed to drive targeted results.

### Benefits:

- Surprise and delight initiatives can help build brand awareness by offering benefits that customers want to tell family and friends about.
- These initiatives also have a longer-lasting impact because the customer is far more likely to remember and share their experience.
- Unlike other types of loyalty programs, customers don't expect to get a specific reward, which means that you can fine-tune the program until you find the most delightful experience.
- Delighting your best customers serves the business by improving customer retention and therefore avoiding high churn rates.
- Happy customers lead to increased word-of-mouth promotion which lowers customer acquisition costs, including the cost of advertising.

It's a win-win for customers, who love the surprises, and for you because you can adjust the program in order to maximize results. And best of all, the rewards

don't need to be expensive to be highly effective. It's the surprise that delights customers, not the actual benefit.

**HOW TO GUIDE:**  
Create an automated campaign

## Reduce costs by reviewing outstanding discounts and rewards programs

Budgets are inevitably tight at the moment. Now, is the time to make sure your loyalty program is working for you and not against you. Consider reviewing your programs to date to ensure they're delivering the results you want. Here are six common mistakes to avoid to save you money during this time of restraint:

- 01** Review your intro offer and ensure a purchase is required for redemption. This will discourage discount seekers who only sign-up for freebies.
- 02** Stop offering blanket discounts for everyone (i.e. coupons on your website)! These indiscriminate incentives create "discount customers" and negatively impact your brand.
- 03** Test incentives on VIPs (your most engaged customers) first. If an incentive doesn't drive a change in behavior with your VIPs, chances are, it won't work with less engaged guests.
- 04** Offer iterative rewards. Start by offering smaller discounts and only offer larger incentives once you can prove the smaller incentive won't drive the change in behavior you are seeking.

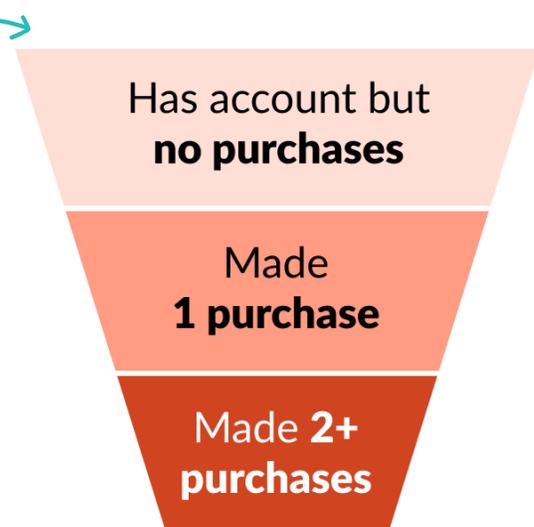
- 05** Be sure to put redemption limits on new offers to limit outstanding liabilities which may limit future endeavors.
- 06** Align your rewards strategy with your customer data capture strategy. Without membership, you won't be able to set up customer segments and effectively A/B test your campaigns - meaning your efforts won't yield tangible knowledge or save you money in the future (see [Step #2](#)).

## Measure your success

Since your repeat customers drive the majority of revenue for your business, measuring your ability to drive repeat additional visits and increase LTV is arguably **the most important measurement your marketing team should focus on**. And while measuring customer LTV can feel complicated, it's actually not too hard if you take it step-by-step.

Let's start with your customer funnel. Your customer funnel is made up of customers whose purchase data you can track and customers whose purchase data isn't available. For the purpose of this section, we'll focus on loyalty members, whose purchase data can be tracked.

Within your **loyalty membership funnel**, you have members who have never made a purchase, members who have made a single purchase ("one-time buyers" or "trial" customers) and members who have made multiple purchases ("repeat customers"). The more you can convert one-time buyers to repeat customers and keep repeat customers active, the more revenue you can drive for your business.



The lifetime value (LTV) of a one-time buyer is typically 3-5x the LTV of your repeat customers, for obvious reasons (more visits = more spend). But, often surprisingly for many restaurant marketers, the majority of known customers never make a second purchase. The logic then follows that, for every one-time buyer you can convert into a repeat customer, the incremental return on investment grows by orders of magnitude.

### Let's consider an example:

To make it simple, let's assume that every week, 100 guests sign-up for your loyalty program. Over the course of the next few weeks, you measure the number of those guests who never make a purchase, make a single purchase "one-time buyers" and who make two or more purchases "repeat customers". Let's say 40% of those customers (40 guests) never make a purchase, 40% (40 guests) make a single purchase, and 20% (20 guests) make multiple purchases.

Week #1 sign-up cohort				
	Percentage	Qty	\$/customer	30 day spend
No purchases	40%	40	\$0	\$0
1 purchase	40%	40	\$30	\$1,200
2+ purchases	20%	20	\$100	\$2,000
<b>Total signups</b>		100		\$3,200
			<b>Per customer:</b>	<b>\$32</b>

You can see in the example above that total spend from one-time buyers is \$1,200 while total spend from repeat customers is \$2,000 for a total of \$3,200 and a per customer revenue of \$32. Not bad for your first week!

Now, let's say you run a marketing program the following week targeted at new members who have made just one purchase. The campaign works and as a result, you see ten additional guests make additional purchases. This time the same

40% (40 guests) never make a purchase, but now 30% (30 guests) make multiple purchases. In other words, 10 additional guests make two or more purchases.

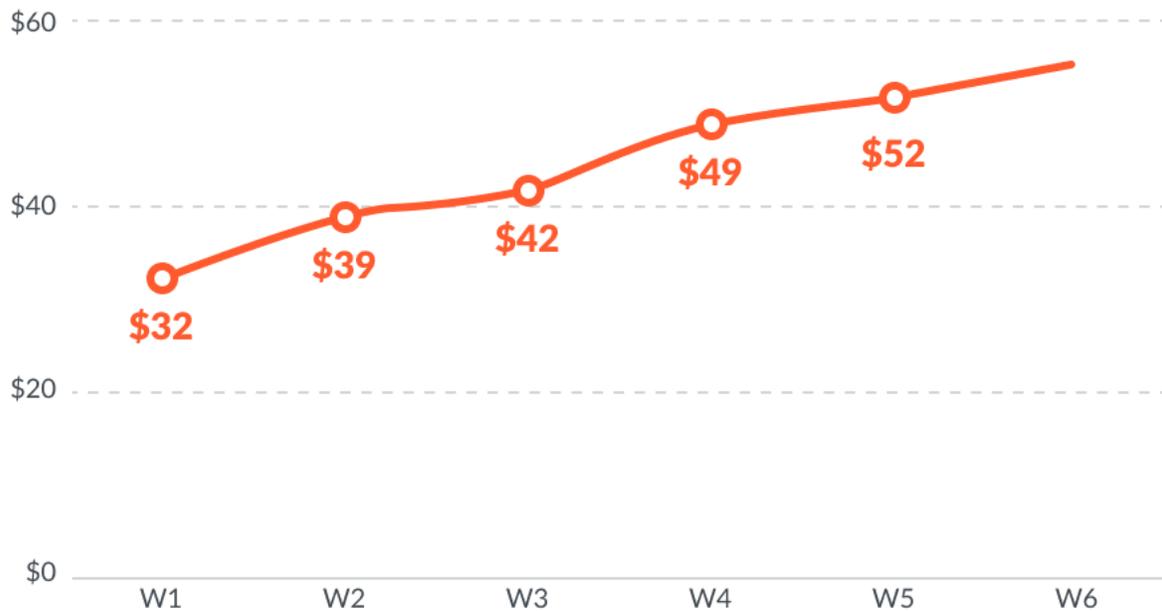
Week #2 sign-up cohort				
	Percentage	Qty	\$/customer	30 day spend
No purchases	40%	40	\$0	\$0
1 purchase	↓ 30%	30	\$30	\$900
2+ purchases	↑ 30%	30	\$100	\$3,000
<b>Total signups</b>		100		\$3,900
			<b>Per customer:</b>	<b>\$39</b>

The result is an increase in overall revenue, and most importantly, in the average revenue per customer. Total spend from your one-time buyers is slightly less (\$900) but total spend from repeat customers more than makes up for it, with \$3,000, for a total of \$3,900. That's a 22% incremental revenue lift and an increase in average revenue per customer from \$32 to \$39!

Finally, let's say in week three, you run a marketing program targeted at the new members who have never made a purchase. This time, 40% of your customers make a purchase, a 10% increase in first-visits.

Week #3 sign-up cohort				
	Percentage	Qty	\$/customer	30 day spend
No purchases	↓ 30%	30	\$0	\$0
1 purchase	↑ 40%	40	\$30	\$1,200
2+ purchases	30%	30	\$100	\$3,000
<b>Total signups</b>		100		\$4,200
			<b>Per customer:</b>	<b>\$42</b>
			<b>Total revenue:</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>

In this scenario, total spend from your one-time buyers goes up to \$1,200 and total spend of repeat customers stays the same, at \$3,000, for a total of \$4,200. That's a 31% incremental revenue lift from week one and now your per customer revenue has gone up from \$32 to \$42!



As you run marketing programs, track how your per customer revenue changes over time so that you can start to determine how efficiently your new members convert into repeat customers and where the opportunities might be to drive additional revenue.