

All Wheel Drive or 4 Wheel Drive: Which Vehicle Is Right for You?

When shopping for a new or used vehicle, the options can sometimes feel endless. One of them could involve deciding between an all-wheel drive (AWD) or a four-wheel drive (4WD) vehicle. Understanding the difference between these two driving systems can help you determine which one is the better fit for you.

Due to their similarities, AWD and 4WD are easily confused. The simplest way to tell them apart is by remembering that AWD systems are “always on,” whereas a 4WD system is usually disengaged until the driver engages it.

What Is AWD, and How Does It Work?

AWD systems are a type of four-wheel drive that helps increase your traction and ability to accelerate in slippery conditions. These systems use a central differential or dual-clutch system to route torque (i.e., rotational force) to a wheel that’s starting to slip, whether it’s on the front or rear axle.

These systems not only make it easier to drive on wet or snowy roads, but also give you better fuel economy and a more comfortable ride in comparison to a 4WD vehicle. AWD systems have the advantage of either powering all four wheels continuously or automatically controlling which wheel will receive the additional torque needed for control and stability.

Who Is Best Suited for an AWD Vehicle?

AWD systems are ideal for drivers who travel frequently in rainy or snowy conditions, as the additional traction offers better control of the vehicle in treacherous situations and can help prevent accidents.



Depending on the type of vehicle purchased, AWD systems can also slightly boost vehicle performance, as the added traction that the all-wheel drive system provides while accelerating can result in better cornering and faster launches from a standing start.

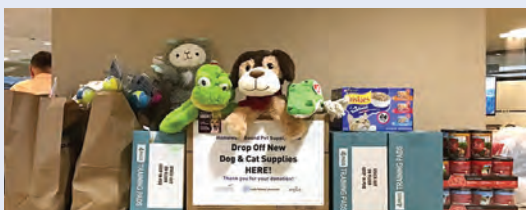
What Is 4WD, and How Does It Work?

Like AWD systems, 4WD systems send power to all four wheels of a vehicle. 4WD systems tend to be more robust than their AWD counterparts, allowing drivers of 4WD vehicles to take their vehicle off-road.

These systems typically offer driver-selectable low- and high-range settings, with low-range settings providing aggressive traction used to conquer steep trails or mountainous terrain.

Who Is Best Suited for a 4WD Vehicle?

Ultimately, the debate between AWD vs. 4WD comes down to one simple question: Do you plan to take your vehicle off-roading? If your answer is yes, then a vehicle with 4WD probably makes the most sense. If you’re a driver primarily interested in a vehicle that can hold its own in inclement weather, an AWD vehicle may be your best bet. ■



Homeward Bound Pet Supply Drive

Thank you to our members and employees who donated to our 2021 Homeward Bound Pet Supply Drive! We received over 800 pounds of dry pet food, 180+ cans of wet pet food, 400+ puppy pads, and five large boxes filled with toys, towels, blankets, collars, and leashes for our furry friends. These donations will benefit animals at the Animal Humane Society of NM, Fabulous Felines, June’s Senior Cat Rescue, and the Lap Dog Rescue of NM.



The BalanceTrack "Back on Track" Summer Contest

You could win \$500!

Strengthen your financial skills and get back on track to good financial health this summer with the 4th Annual BALANCE Financial Fitness “Back on Track” Summer Contest! Enter by completing BalanceTrack learning modules. For each one you complete, you’ll earn a chance to win \$500. The contest runs from July 1 - September 30, 2021. Visit slfcu.org/BalanceContest to learn more.

Meet a MEMBERS Financial Services* Professional



Name: John Marek, MBA, AIF
Financial Advisor, Wealth
Management since 2003

SLFCU branch office: Juan Tabo
*Check the background of this investment
professional on FINRA's BrokerCheck.*

Personal philosophy: "When it
comes to investing, do the simple
things well, first. I want to help

people manage their personal finances to save, secure retirement, and build wealth. Investing well is not complicated."

According to John, most people believe that investing must be difficult, and hard to understand. The reality, he says, couldn't be further from the truth. Whether helping to manage taxes, or setting up an investment account, John aims to do the simple things well, perform the common uncommonly well.

"Often, members that have something holding them back is where I can help. They might not know how or where to take that first step with an inheritance, building retirement, or managing wealth," explains John. "What I'd really like everyone to understand is where they are now at this minute in their financial journey, is the most perfect place to start. My job is to help my clients do something to move forward immediately."

For John, finance and investing was a natural career path. As a youth growing up in Carlsbad, New Mexico, John tagged along with his older brother who was participating in an internship of sorts with a financial advisor. "It was an early lesson," states John. "We picked two stocks, Reebok and Nike, and the advisor taught us how to follow the companies." John created

his first personal annuity account from money saved over the summer in high school.

On the advice of his stockbroker uncle, John chose to major in finance at New Mexico State University. He would later go on to earn an MBA at UNM. After graduating from NMSU in 2003 and securing his first investment job, he gained experience working at a wirehouse, a discount brokerage, and a local New Mexico investment management firm.

In 2018, John joined MEMBERS Financial Services* located at Sandia Laboratory Federal Credit Union.

"I was drawn to the excellent reputation of SLFCU's Financial Services Program (MEMFS), the stability, reputation, and credit union as a whole. Having seen the tech bubble, 9/11, housing crisis, the Great Recession, and now the pandemic, I have the experience to help members grow and prosper in any environment."

According to John, his true career passion is assisting SLFCU members, employees, and clients. "I encourage everyone to book an hour with me and take that first step. Whether people have many or few resources to begin with, I am confident that together we will build from there." ■

* MEMBERS Financial Services Financial Professionals are registered representatives of CUNA Brokerage Services, Inc. Representatives are registered, securities sold, advisory services offered through CUNA Brokerage Services, Inc. (CBSI), member FINRA/SIPC, a registered broker/dealer and investment advisor, which is not an affiliate of the credit union. CBSI is under contract with the financial institution to make securities available to members. Not NCUA/NCUSIF/FDIC insured, May Lose Value, No Financial Institution Guarantee. Not a deposit of any financial institution. CUNA Brokerage Services, Inc. is a registered broker/dealer in all fifty States of the United States of America CBSI-3651331.1-0621-0723

** Representative is neither a tax advisor nor attorney. For information regarding your specific tax situation, please consult a tax professional. For legal questions, please consult your attorney.

Ahmet Tiryaki: Building a Future in New Mexico

SLFCU Business Member Highlight



Ahmet Tiryaki
Dama Construction

There's no doubt about it: Ahmet Tiryaki is a true New Mexican. Sure, he was born in Turkey, and it may have taken him a while to enjoy red and green chile, but you'd be hard-pressed to find someone who has more fully embraced the Land of Enchantment. From becoming a huge New Mexico United fan to helping his local community

through philanthropic activities, Ahmet describes his life as "blessed."

Ahmet arrived in Albuquerque in the late 1980s to attend the University of New Mexico. "I had a sister who came to the U.S. to attend Oklahoma State University. My path took me to UNM. I loved the Albuquerque community and met my beautiful wife. We stayed to make a life together here." Over the years their family has grown to include two adult children (also UNM graduates), and Ahmet has created several New Mexico businesses, including Dama Construction.

According to Ahmet, another stroke of good fortune was being introduced to Sandia Laboratory Federal Credit Union and meeting with the Business Services team. Andrew Jaynes, SLFCU's Chief Credit Officer, describes Ahmet as having a very caring heart. "Around 2010, we made our first commercial building loan to Ahmet's construction company," he says. "We have now financed the construction of several multi-family units for them. What is remarkable is how much his tenants respect Ahmet and appreciate his kindness. He has been loyal to his tenants during tough times, often quietly working out payment plans and other assistance for those who needed help."

Ahmet describes his relationship with SLFCU as "awesome," and appreciates the down-to-earth atmosphere and the care taken with each relationship. He notes, "I always feel like I am being treated fairly by SLFCU," something he says is not always true for small businesses at other financial institutions. Looking to the future, Ahmet plans more building projects, and is working to help New Mexico prosper in any way he can – and enjoying more red or green chile along the way. ■

Tips To Stay Safe on Social Media

With scams becoming more common, we offer a few tips on how to keep you and your kids safe online and on social media.

1. Use a different password for each social media account. Making sure that none of your accounts share a password will help avoid the risk of a hacker being able to have access to all of your accounts. Creating complex, hard-to-guess passwords is a great habit to teach your kids early on so that their accounts stay as secure as possible.

2. Be careful about the personal information that you share. Be careful about sharing sensitive information about your personal life, like home addresses, financial information, phone numbers, etc. This information could make it easier for a scammer to use those specific details about you and hack other accounts of yours. You can add in more protection by making your and your child's profiles private.



3. Don't accept friend requests from people you don't know. Making new friends is fun, but fake profiles can be hard to spot until it's too late. Be cautious of people you don't know asking personal questions or trying to chat with you or your child. This may be a scammer trying to gain information about your identity and location to use for harm.

For more information on how you can stay safe online, visit slfcu.org/SecurityArticles. ■

Which Bills Should You Pay (or Not) With a Credit Card?

If you are like many people, you use your credit card for daily purchases. They're convenient and secure, can help you build your credit history, and can make budgeting easier. Often, they also offer rewards, like SLFCU's Visa Signature® and Visa Platinum® Rebate cards, which offer cash back on purchases.

For these reasons, personal finance companies such as NerdWallet recommend paying with a credit card when possible.¹ However, before you pull out your card or tap to pay, consider the potential pros and cons of paying your bills with credit. Read on for some tips.

Day-to-Day Purchases

If you routinely pay for expenses such as dining out, online shopping, or groceries with your credit card, you can rack up those rewards – but make sure you have a plan to pay your balance in full each month. Making only the minimum monthly payment can be tempting, but that, combined with making too many purchases on your card, can cause 'credit creep', where your balance grows each month and the interest piles up.

Large Purchases

Thinking about putting a large purchase on a credit card? Personal finance experts recommend you only do this when you know you can afford to pay off the balance in a timely fashion. When a large purchase sits "unsettled" on your card, you'll not only be hit with interest, but you could also wipe out your available

credit limit. Your credit utilization rate is an important factor in determining your credit score, too. If one or more of your cards is maxed out, you'll see a negative dip on your report until those balances are free again.²

Monthly "Non-Debt" Bills

SLFCU pays up to a 1.5% monthly rebate on all purchases made with its credit cards, so if you typically pay off the entire balance each month, it could make sense to use it to pay for utilities, internet or streaming services, cell phone, auto insurance, and other non-debt monthly bills. You'll rack up reward dollars on bills you have to pay anyway, and it's convenient to have your entire spending record in one place. You can track your purchases in online or mobile banking, so you can easily review when you paid your bills.

Check your payment agreements to see if you'll be charged any fees for using a credit card to pay, as they could wipe out the value of rewards you accumulate. And remember: you should only pay by credit card if you use your card responsibly and can pay off the entire balance each month. The last thing you want is to have to pay interest on a utility payment you made six months ago.

Looking for a great low-rate rebate card? Check out SLFCU's options at slfcu.org/CreditCards. ■

1. NerdWallet, 6/17/21 (nerdwallet.com/article/credit-cards/why-every-purchase-should-be-on-a-credit-card)

2. CNBC, 6/7/21 (cnbc.com/select/expenses-never-put-on-credit-card)

Cash-back on purchases just got even better!

Visa Signature®: 1.5% monthly rebate

Visa Platinum® Rebate: 1.0% monthly rebate

New cardholders who spend \$1,500 on purchases* in the first 90 days can get a \$100 statement credit.

*Offer applies to new SLFCU Visa credit card accounts opened after 6/1/2021. To be eligible for the \$100 statement credit, \$1,500 in net purchases must be made with your SLFCU credit card within 90 days of new account opening. Account must be open and in good standing at the time credit is awarded to receive the credit. These transaction types do not count as purchases: balance transfers, cash advances, checks that access your account, fees assessed by SLFCU, quasi-cash items (e.g., casino chips, cash equivalents (e.g., money orders) and purchases made using a Personal Identification Number (PIN). Each account is eligible for one statement credit of \$100. Please allow four weeks after spending \$1,500 to receive the credit.



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Puzzled about auto financing?

Let SLFCU steer you to a great solution.

SLFCU offers smart auto loans with:

- No payments for the first 90 days
- Little to no down payment required
- Flexible terms

Finance your next car or truck with SLFCU. Apply online and get pre-approved in as little as 15 minutes.

Learn more: slfcu.org/AutoLoans

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PO Box 23040, Albuquerque, NM 87192

Dollars & Sense

All Wheel Drive or 4 Wheel Drive: Which Vehicle is Right for You?

Meet a MEMBERS Financial Services Professional

Ahmet Tiryaki: Building a Future in New Mexico

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On the Calendar

School Supply Drive

August 2 - 21 • Central New Mexico branches

BALANCE Webinar: Sandwich Generation (Taking Care of Kids and Parents)

Tuesday, August 10 • 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 19 • 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Labor Day

Monday, Sept. 6 • All branches and Contact Center closed



SLFCU Named a Top Credit Union in NM Three Years in a Row!

SLFCU has been recognized as one of the top three credit unions in New Mexico for the third year in a row! Thank you to our wonderful members and employees who help make SLFCU great.

Stay Connected: fb.com/SLFCU @SandiaLabCreditUnion @SLFCU linkedin.com/company/SLFCU

