



## NEWS RELEASE

*FOR MORE INFORMATION – Contact Kara Lee Ford at 501-683-1646 or 501-920-6287.*

### **Lottery tickets are great stocking stuffers, but not for kids**

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LITTLE ROCK – The anticipation one experiences from scratching-off lottery tickets on Christmas morning is unmatched. But, while fun for adults, lottery tickets are not appropriate gifts for anyone under the age of 18.

“Lottery tickets are wonderful stocking stuffers, but it is important to gift responsibly only to adults,” said Arkansas Scholarship Lottery Director Eric Hagler. “We need adults to help keep lottery tickets out of the hands of minors.”

The Arkansas Scholarship Lottery participates in the National Council on Problem Gambling’s Responsible Gambling Holiday Campaign, which helps raise awareness of the potential dangers that can come from children playing the lottery. Scratch-off tickets have been shown to present a possible gateway to other gambling activities, and a number of young people report their first gambling experience occurred around 9 to 11 years of age.

“While we are proud of the mission of the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery to help thousands of Arkansas students receive a college education, we recognize that many people with gambling problems can trace the origins back to childhood,” Hagler said. “That’s why this is such an important message for us.”

Help for problem gambling is available by calling or texting the 24-hour, confidential National Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-522-4700.

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#### **About the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery**

More than 92 cents of every dollar of ASL revenue goes to prizes, scholarships, retailer commissions and other expenses in Arkansas. Since 2009, the lottery has raised more than \$1 billion in proceeds for scholarships. More than 600,000 college scholarships have been awarded to Arkansans. The lottery has awarded more than \$3.4 billion in prizes to players, more than \$295 million in retailer commissions and provided more than \$139 million in state and federal tax revenue.

Follow the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). Visit [MyArkansasLottery.com](http://MyArkansasLottery.com) for more information on scholarships, winners, games, odds, promotions – and to join The Club for free. To hear winning numbers, call the Winning Numbers Hotline at 501-682-IWON (4966). To get help with problem gambling, contact the National Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-522-4700.