

Creative Fundraising Ideas

How to Make Money & Have Fun Doing It

Events can be a great way to have fun and raise money at the same time. For example, you can throw a party, hold a benefit concert, or host a bowling night. The proceeds from the event can then be used to fund your project. Keep in mind, though, that events can be a lot of work and don't always bring in money. Remember to see the good in each experience and learn from your mistakes.

Idea #1: Host a concert.

Ask a local choir or band to perform a benefit concert for your project. Check with local music venues or concert halls to see if they will host the event for free. You may also want to look into holding your benefit concert at a free/inexpensive location such as a coffee shop, mall, library, or church.

Idea #2: Collect pennies.

Have your friends or classmates compete to collect the most pennies. A competition like this is low stress and fun!

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Idea #3: Screen a movie.

Show a movie that is somehow related to your project's mission. You could host the event at a home, school, community center, or movie theater. Ask each person for a donation at the door. You can also sell snacks during the movie to make extra money.

Idea #4: Head shaving.

When it comes to a head shaving fundraiser, the possibilities are endless, so you are only limited by your imagination. Here are a few ideas to help you brainstorm. Find a school teacher or principal willing to shave their head for your fundraiser. Someone who has long hair would be ideal because they will seem to be giving up more and people will be more willing to donate. Have a public head shaving when your goal has been met. Let the top donors or fundraisers take turns with the clippers or find a local barber willing to do it. As an alternative, you could also do a beard or mustache shaving.

Idea #5: Organize a yard sale.

Ask your neighbors or classmates to donate items for your sale. Advertise the yard sale around your community with signs and ads in newspapers. Consider selling any leftover items on eBay or donating them to a charity.

Idea #6: Lead a guided nature tour.

When the weather starts warming up, people want to get outside. Why spend beautiful spring and summer days sitting around when you could go on a guided nature hike? If you live near a state park, or there are public wooded areas in your community, get a group together to go on a hike and enjoy everything nature has to offer.

Ask a local park ranger or nature enthusiast (maybe even a local hero or your town's mayor) to lead a group on a hike. You can charge a fee for participation, and then add a few extras like a picnic lunch and bottled water to make sure no one gets dehydrated. You could also rent binoculars for those interested in seeing birds, butterflies, or other wildlife up close. Print lists of birds, insects, and animals that can be seen in your area, so hikers will know what to look for.

Idea #7: Sell shout outs.

Ask for participants to pay \$1-\$5 for a shout out in the school newspaper or on the morning announcements.

Idea #8: Have a car wash.

Ask a local business or your school to donate access to their water, hoses, and parking lot. Gather up buckets, sponges, towels, and soap. If you set a price, also mention that you are taking donations for a good cause.

Idea #9: Host a raffle.

Get someone in your community to donate a service or item, such as a free computer, a gift certificate, or a weekend in a nice hotel. Sell raffle tickets for the prize and select a winner.

Note: Before holding a raffle, make sure you research the legal guidelines regarding raffles in your province.

Idea #10: Host a non-event.

A phantom event is when you ask people not to come to an event but to donate the money that they would have spent on the event.

Be creative with this! For example, you could throw a Not-A-Bake-Sale and ask volunteers to donate the \$5-\$10 they would have spent had they baked cookies.

