



FUNDRAISING INSPIRATIONS

Bake Sale

You will want to give a call out to all of the bakers in your group and have them make their specialty. Ask that they send a list of ingredients with their baked goods. Make sure you have an assortment of different types of desserts ranging from cookies and muffins to whole cakes and pies. You will want to package items individually (single cookies) and in larger groups (plates of cookies) so that you have something for everyone. Clearly label all items with a price and ingredients list. Clearly mark anything with nuts so you don't have any allergic reactions. On the day of the sale, set everything up on a long table. Have a cash box and have at least twenty dollars in small bills and coins for making change. Sell bottled water and soda to wash down the yummy goodness!

Break the Balloon

Pop, pop, pop! What can be more fun than popping a balloon? Winning something for doing so, of course! You will need balloons, a helium tank, string, and slips of paper with prizes printed on them. Go to local retailers and explain who your group is and what you are raising funds for. Ask if they would like to donate a prize in exchange for free advertising at your event. If you are a student, see if teachers will donate free homework passes! On the day of the event, place the prize slips into the balloons, fill them with helium, and tie a string to them. All balloons should have a slip of paper, even if it is just a thank you for participating, so they all look the same. You may want the balloons to all be the same color to distinguish them from others at the event. Sell the balloons telling people to hold onto them until a big announcement. After all the balloons have been sold, instruct everyone to pop their balloon and see if they have won. It will be humorous to see the different methods of popping the balloons. Instruct the winners to come up and claim their prize.

Butler Auction

This fundraiser will probably prove to be very popular with the underclassmen at your high school. Let the seniors' auction themselves off to be a butler for a day. Butler responsibilities would be greet their "employer" as they arrive for school, carry their books, fetch their lunch, etc. Get volunteers willing to auction themselves off for the day to the highest bidder. Set rules in advance of what the butler is and isn't responsible for, for example no test taking! Identify what time the butler day starts and stops. It would be up to each employer if they are going to institute a dress code or not. Maybe their butler has to wear a silly hat or a Mickey Mouse t-shirt. All students still have to attend class, so duties would be suspended then. Have a special pizza dinner that evening for butlers and employers to thank them for their participation. This is easy to modify for a corporate team as well.

Coin Collections

Truly Pennies 4 Produce! Teams can place collection jars in lunch rooms or on reception desks. This fundraiser is also perfect to collect the change given at countless stores in your town. Visit local retailers and see if they will let you put one of our collection containers on their counter. Send a representative of your group once a week to empty out the jars and collect the money. Make sure you update the store manager on your group's progress and thank them for helping your group. Variation: Book a date in front of a local store, create some posters and use a P4P collection container to collect donations.

Car Detailing

A car wash is a common fundraiser for groups of all types. But what if you don't have access to a water source? Or what if you just want to be environmentally friendly, and save the hundreds of gallons of water used up at a car wash? Why not have a car detailing day? Your group can clean just the interiors of cars, and either charge a flat fee or ask for donations. You'll need plenty of paper towels, but reusable cloths are a better way to go if you're trying to be environmentally conscious. You can buy big boxes of them at club stores or auto supply stores. You'll also need glass cleaner, as well as cleaners and protectants for vinyl and leather. Also have plenty of trash bags on hand. If there's an electrical outlet nearby, ask a group member to bring a heavy duty vacuum to use on the car's carpets and upholstery. Throw in an inexpensive air freshener, and your customers can drive away in clean, fresh cars while you earn money for P4P.

Coffee House and Poetry Slam

Lattes, mochas, and cappuccinos... This fundraiser works great for a school or community team and is appropriate for all ages. For a smaller group, see if someone has an espresso machine that you can borrow for the evening. They will probably be very happy to act as your barista for the evening. You will want to have ground espresso, both regular and decaf, skim milk, whole milk, flavored syrups (vanilla, hazelnut and caramel are popular), sugar, artificial sweetener, chocolate syrup, regular drip coffee, and several varieties of tea. If it is a large group, you may want to find someone that rents all of the equipment and supplies. They may be willing to give your group a discount in exchange for the free advertising at your event. They will probably provide a barista too. Fundraising will come from drink sales. Make sure you have non-coffee drinks such as steamers (steamed milk and flavored syrup) and hot chocolate on the menu as well. Have bottled water available for non-coffee drinkers. For the poetry slam, have a microphone and invite people to share a favorite poem they have written or one written by their favorite poet. Variation: host a coffee house featuring high school talent -- musicians, singers, etc.

Funny Photo Contest

This is a chance for all aspiring photographers to show off their funniest pictures. Have a funny photo contest and ask for submissions from your school. Setup pictures like an art show (ask your school or work place for a display area—maybe during a time when families will be visiting so they can vote too!). Have the pictures framed or matted and include a small biography of the artist. In order to raise money, make it a juried art show. Place a P4P collection container in front of each picture in which people can place coins or bills to vote for their favorites—the picture with the most donations is declared the winner. Leave the display set up for a week or two. Consider having an “Opening Night” event with sparkling cider, etc. As an alternative you could auction off the funny photos and whichever one sells for the highest price is the winner. Variation: instead of funny, pick a different theme like emotions, around town, or pets.

How Many in That Jar?

This fundraiser is very simple to run and requires very little equipment. You will need a large jar or clear box and something to fill it with. Pick something like candy covered chocolates, nails, marbles or cards. You will also need index cards or slips of paper with lines marked for name, phone number, and guess. Set the jar in a public spot and have someone selling guess slips for one or two dollars. People are welcome to submit as many guesses as they are willing to pay for. Have a box for placing guess slips into. Run the contest for a week or two to give everyone a chance to make a guess. After all the guesses have been entered have a small group of people count the items from the jar. Count several times to be sure of the total. Announce the winner and give them a fun prize.

Movie Night

See if you can use a local school's gymnasium to set up a movie night. Project the movie onto a screen and let everyone set up chairs or blankets to watch. Charge an entry fee and have a concession stand/popcorn machine to raise extra money.

Ice Cream Social

Everyone loves ice cream! Host an ice cream social for your fundraiser. Have the basic flavors of vanilla and chocolate and all kinds of sundae toppings such as hot fudge, caramel, sprinkles, whipped cream, and cherries. Have guests pay for a bowl of their favorite flavor and then let them add what they like at a Toppings Bar. Variation: Longest Ice Cream Sundae. Get a piece of clean, plastic gutter and use it to create a large sundae. Fill it with ice cream, hot fudge, whipped cream, and cherries on top. Charge admission to let everyone dig right in and enjoy. Sell bottles of water too.

Karaoke Night

There is a hidden singer in all of us. Most people will admit to singing in their shower or car when no one else is around. Bring the singer out with a karaoke night for your next fundraiser. You will want to find a place to host it. A cafeteria always works well. There are usually tables and chairs already set up. Find a place that rents karaoke machines and see if they will give you a deal because it is a fundraiser. Tell them you will give them free advertising during the event. Theme your karaoke night as a coffee shop. Serve fancy coffee drinks or non-alcoholic frozen beverages. Charge an entry fee and give a discount to those willing to sing to ensure there is entertainment. Allow people to sing solo or in groups. Have an emcee to keep things flowing. Encourage those who did a great job and got the audience going to sing again.

Penny War

A penny war is simple and fun! Set up your teams based on corporate divisions or school classrooms. Each team will have a jar to collect coins in. The coins face value equals one vote per cent for the team (Ex. a quarter = 25 votes). To make it interesting and raise more money, let any paper money count as a vote against the team (Ex. a dollar = negative 100 points). Keep each jar in a public location to allow anyone to cast a vote for or against a team. Empty each jar at the end of the day or week and keep a running total. Let this fundraiser run for the month of February to give everyone a chance to bring in their spare change. Plan a fun results announcement at the end of February.

Teacher/Boss Challenge

This requires a willing teacher or boss. You pick several activities that are appropriate for the setting that you would want your teacher/boss to perform as payback. You put the details of each activity on a jar or money box and put the jars out where students/employees can deposit money in them to "vote" for the activity they want done. At the end of a period of time, say 2 weeks, count the money in each jar. The jar with the most money is the winner, and the teacher/boss has to perform that task. Tasks might be to provide a pizza lunch, shave a beard or mustache, change their haircut, temporarily dye their hair, or wear a clown suit for a day. The key is they have to be something fun for the participants, but something the person is willing to do.

Spirit Chain Fundraising

This is a great fundraiser for school students! Have a competition within the different classes in the school (Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior) to see who has the most school spirit. Each class has two colors that their paper chain consists of. Sell each strip of paper for 50 cents. Keep the chains hidden and then at an assembly have class representatives bring out the huge paper chains that have accumulated over time. Whichever class' chain is the longest receives bragging rights for the rest of the school year. The only thing you have to pay for is the paper and staples/glue/tape.

Show Up In Your Jammies Day

Isn't it everyone's dream to roll out of bed and head to school still in your pajamas? It is time to make that dream a reality and let people show up in their jammies. Collect a donation of \$1 to \$5 in the morning and give participants a special hand stamp to show that they have paid. See if you can get the teachers and principals to wear their pajamas too. Sell donuts and bagels before school for breakfast. At lunchtime you can have a pajama fashion show and give out awards for the best dressed, most creative, funkiest pajamas, and ugliest pajamas. Ask the cafeteria if they will get in on it too and have them serve breakfast foods for lunch. As an additional fundraiser you could sell slippers so people can really relax. With many schools banning pajamas in their dress code, this could be a very popular fundraiser. Just be sure to have guidelines on appropriate pajamas!

Talent Show

Dim the lights and raise the curtain—it's show time! Raise money, have fun and provide an evening of entertainment for your community by putting on a talent show. It will take some planning, and some time for rehearsals and advertising, but it guarantees to be a fun and exciting way to raise money for your team. Find out if your school will let you use their auditorium. Talk to your school's drama and music department teachers and get their recommendations. Get as many members of your group involved as possible. Those who aren't in the show can help by donating items to be used as props, and by collecting tickets. Assign a few group members to be ushers on the night the show takes place. Post fliers around your community, and advertise on social networking websites. You don't need to get fancy with built and painted sets. The object is to put on a good show and raise money for P4P. If it's a success, you can make it an annual event. Funds can come from ticket sales and simple concessions like popcorn and drinks.

"Bakeless" Bake Sale Fundraising

Have your school or office include this letter with their weekly announcements: "You are invited to NOT bake a cake, pie, cookies, or brownies. You do NOT have to find the recipe. You do NOT have to shop for the ingredients. You do NOT have to mix. You do NOT have to cook. You do NOT have to cut. You do NOT have to wrap. You do NOT have to wash dishes. You do NOT have to clean up your kitchen. You do NOT have to deliver the baked product. You do NOT have to stand in the heat/cold/rain to sell the baked product. You can write a check for \$10 (or whatever amount you want to ask for) to "America's Grow-a-Row" and stay home and enjoy doing something with your family!"

Art Show and Sale

Recruit student artists to donate artwork. Display them with silent auction bid sheets. Be sure to let parents know about the sale! Variation: theme your show around farming, produce, etc.