

Top 12 | Events & Team-Based Fundraising Ideas

Fundraising can be challenging, but it can also be fun (sounds cliché, but its true)! We want to make sure you have everything you need to host a successful fundraiser, and have fun doing it. We've put together a list of events-based fundraising ideas to help you reach your goal. These will help get your family, friends and coworkers involved in the cause, too!

1. Fantasy Pool

Get your office, friends or family into the competitive spirit by hosting a sports, Oscars or reality TV pool. Pick your type (fantasy, draft, ballot), and set your cost and start time. Charge players for entry and source prizes for winners. There are sites that offer free registration and allow you to monitor progress and results online. Don't forget the trash talk!

The Nitty Gritty: Do a google search for free fantasy sites or create your own with paper and a grid of categories/choices. Be sure to establish rules, keep all participants updated on the official standings throughout the competition, and announce the winner.

2. Bingo/Trivia Night

Get your friends and family together for a fun night of trivia. Host at a local restaurant or at home, and charge teams at the door. Local restaurants/bars might help you promote the event, and/or offer a percentage of bar sales. You could also collect prizes for raffle or silent auction.

The Nitty Gritty: If you plan to host it at a restaurant or bar, ask them early. Don't forget the bingo cards or trivia questions, and set the rules out at the beginning to avoid issues later on!

3. Bake Sale

Recruit some friends to help with baking (try some [heart-healthy snack recipes](#)) and sell for donations. Don't forget to let your colleagues know the date. Double it: try opening the bake sale twice, once in the morning and again in the afternoon to maximize your snackers!

The Nitty Gritty: Ask for bakers at least two weeks ahead and send a reminder as the day approaches. Have a jar for donations so people are less likely to ask for change.

4. House, Pet, or Baby Sit

Offer up your sitting services and let your friends/family have a nice, quiet night out of the house, or a worry-free vacation. Have them make a donation towards your fundraising goal instead of a gift or payment. It helps you both out!

The Nitty Gritty: Be sure you're comfortable with the friends/family you ask. And if you're allergic to their pet, don't forget the allergy medicine.

5. Matching Gifts

Check to see if your company does a Corporate Match or Internal Giving Program. Lots of companies have these and all you have to do is ask. It's a great way to get others to support you too, knowing their contribution will be doubled!

The Nitty Gritty: there might be timing requirements for these applications, so make sure to ask early so you have enough time for the match/donation to come through for event day!

6. Sports Tournament

Pick your sport and set the location. Get groups to play and charge a team registration fee. Ask local business to donate snacks/drinks to sell for additional fundraising, and think about hosting a 50/50 raffle as well.

The Nitty Gritty: Pick a location with two fields/arenas/courts and create a round robin schedule for up to 8 teams. Send a final itinerary in advance of event day.

7. Casual/Jeans Day

Jeans Days are always a crowd-pleaser. Every Friday from the start of your campaign, offer colleagues a chance to dress down for a \$5 or \$10 donation. If weekly Jeans isn't realistic, try Fridays in February for Heart Month, or Fridays in June to celebrate the Ride for Heart!

The Nitty Gritty: Always consult with management to ensure your workplace is on board. Make sure you spread the word, and walk around the office on Thursdays to remind people.

8. 50/50 Draw

Pick the ticket price, sell tickets and hold a draw. The winner takes half the pool, and the other half goes towards your fundraising goal. Don't forget to run this by your boss if you're doing it at the office. Try these ticket prices: 1 ticket for \$2 // 3 tickets for \$5 // 10 tickets for \$10.

The Nitty Gritty: You'll need a strip of two-sided raffle tickets, a secure place to hold your cash, and a deadline for people to buy tickets. Since a 50/50 is technically a lottery, a gaming license is required from your municipality.

9. Scavenger Hunt

Remember how fun these were when we were kids? You can create a simple hunt, like find these regular items on the list (E.g. a red leaf, lipstick, pen, selfie) or plant items ahead of time and give clues along the way. People pay to play and/or pay for the items they could not find!

The Nitty Gritty: Decide how your hunt will work and get help with the prep. Be sure to set a time limit on play and have prizes for the winners.

10. Nickel Wars

This is all about collecting spare change – every nickel counts! You can opt for a jar for people to donate spare change, or make it a competition with colleagues or friends (the team with the lowest total has to do a dare).

The Nitty Gritty: pick a high traffic area and a busy time of day (E.g. Noon in the lunchroom, grocery store on the Friday afternoons). Set the duration to give people an urgency to give.

11. Car Wash

Pick a weekend and recruit friends/family as “washers”. Ask the local fire department to use their parking lot and/or firetrucks so you have access to water, and they might even help you with manpower! Get balloons, music and cheerleaders to help promote the event to passersby.

The Nitty Gritty: Decide if you'll have a fixed price or any-size-donation for cars, and make sure you have enough people to help so you don't get bogged down. Have one person responsible for collecting the cash and don't forget the soap!

12. Yard Sale

Collect items from your house, and ask your friends and family to donate books, CDs, DVDs, furniture, anything they no longer need! Host a good old-fashioned yard sale in your neighborhood, or list the items online and arrange payment/delivery. If you have brand new or high-value items, you can opt for an online auction to maximize your profit.

The Nitty Gritty: Price the items at a discount based on original value and wear-and-tear. Watch out: online auction sites usually allow you to post items for free, but might take a percentage if you use their online payment method (PayPal).

The last word: However you fundraise, don't forget to say thanks!

Show us the money!

You've hosted your fundraiser and now you've got cash and coins. You have three ways to get your money onto your fundraising page:

1. Visit your personal fundraising page, and click 'Donate Now'. Use your credit card to add the lump sum amount to your fundraising page by a self-donation.
2. [Complete this form](#), and mail to us with cheque or credit card information listed. We will add the funds to your personal/team page! Don't send cash through the mail.
3. [Complete this form](#), and bring to us on Ride day. The amount will not be added to your online fundraising page but will go towards your incentive prize.