

A – Z of Fundraising Ideas

NB: Some of these events may require you to take out Public Liability Insurance. Please check before you begin.

And remember - whatever you decide to do, make it fun for you and everyone else!

A is for Auction

Hold an auction of things or promises and ask for some special auction prizes (you may need to do some begging for these): a weekend at the someone's country house, football match tickets, etc – or make up some of your own: offer to do a car wash, dig a garden, etc.

B is for Beard/Head Shave/Leg Wax

These events are very popular with local newspapers, particularly if the individuals are very hairy or brave!

C is for Car Boot Sales and Coffee Mornings

Find a venue then sell pitches for cars and ask families/friends to donate goods. Leaflet houses in the area with details of why you are raising money and when/where the sale will be held. Give each house a bin bag for items for you to sell. Or, make a big pot of coffee, provide a few nibbles and get people to pay to get together for a gossip!

D is for Dinner and Dancing

Hold an evening at your local pub, sports club or restaurant, if you can get a good deal, and sell tickets. Or what about a Dance Marathon? Pair up for a disco endurance test. Pay to enter and see who's the last pair standing.

E is for Exhibitions

Stage an art or photography exhibition in a community venue. Get local artists to help out and give them a chance to display their work. Charge an entrance fee, or auction off selected material.

F is for Fete or Fair

Run a host of fundraising activities such as craft stalls, competitions, treasure hunts, raffles, lucky dips, throwing wet sponges at volunteers. You may want to ask local groups to do displays: karate, belly dancing or dog training, which will also bring in the public and the local press.

G is for guess the number of sweets in a jar, guess the weight of a cake...or your friend!

Give a prize for the closest guess.

H is for House Party

Whether you have a house party or a garden gathering, sell tickets or use games to raise money.

I is for In Jail

Ideal for companies or groups. The Boss, team leader or manager is placed 'in jail', and members of staff have to put up money to either keep them in, or get them out.

J is for Jeans Day

Another favourite with companies or schools – employees or students are allowed to have a 'Dress Down' day, on payment of a donation. Alternatively, liven things up by making it a themed 'Dress-Up' day: ghouls and Vampires, doctors and nurses, bishops and actresses.

K is for Karaoke

Persuade a local pub to donate a room for you to use for an evening. Advertise the evening in the pub and local area and charge would-be singers to take part (perhaps also consider selling ear-plugs as an additional money-spinner!)

L is for Lunch

Instead of buying sandwiches or a cooked canteen lunch, persuade your friends to bring in their own from home, and donate the money they would otherwise have spent. Alternatively, why not get people to make their favourite sandwich and have a competition for the best sandwich filling recipe. Or cake-making and sell slices to raise money.

M is for Money

Remember, be realistic about how much money you can raise, and plan your events and activities carefully to not tire out yourself or your potential sponsors.

N is for Nautical

How about organising a duck race, a dragon boat race, rowing competition or a raft race?

O is for Odds On

Get friends to pay to guess your finish time for a sponsored swim, run, or bike ride. The nearest guess wins a prize.

P is for Packing bags

At your local superstore – ask if you can do this. Get some friends to help for a few hours on a Saturday and the donations from grateful shoppers will soon add up.

Q is for Quiz Night

Ask a local pub to hold a quiz night on a quiet week night. This kind of event will bring custom to the venue, and if run on a regular basis, will provide a regular flow of funds.

R is for Race Night

These nights are run all over the country and are organised by special racing organisers. Guests buy tickets to an evening of 'horse racing.' The entrance fee covers drinks, sandwiches, nibbles and race cards. 'Punters' are asked to bet on eight races to be shown on a large video screen throughout the evening. Winnings are generally awarded using a simple tote system.

S is for Sponsored Events

Sponsorship can apply to any to any number of activities – the more original the idea, the more sponsors will attract. Set a pledged amount on your sponsorship form and remember that people will be led by what amounts other people have pledged. A sponsored silence is an easy one!

T is for Teddy Bears picnic

Great for young families and big kids alike. Get people to pay to picnic in your local park or even in the garden.

U is for Utilise

Be sure to use your friends, family and colleagues to help you to raise money. Encourage them to organise their own fundraising activities on your behalf.

V is for Venues

Approach a selection of venues and ask if they will donate a space. Offer owners an incentive – they could make money on the food and drink if you make money on ticket sales.

W is for Write a Letter

Write letters (or emails) to local businesses, telling them about your idea and enlisting their support. Remember, there are lots of people doing this and you need to make your letter special!

X is for X-rated

If you're over 18, why not do an 'adults-only' event such as a lingerie party -or a wine tasting evening?

Y is for Youth

Youth groups such as the Scouts and Guides often fundraise for good causes so see what they have done and has been successful.

Z is for Zest and Zeal

If you believe in what you are doing, then others will do too and want to help you.