

A – Z of fundraising ideas

A

Aerobic-a-thon

Break out the leotard and the Jane Fonda video and get physical. People get sponsored for every five minutes of aerobics they can manage.

Art Exhibition

Contribute a piece of your (and friends colleagues) own artwork, be it a sculpture, artwork, or painting and get someone to judge the entries. Charge an admission for seeing the work over drinks, then auction off the winning pieces.

Auction of Promises

Visit local businesses and ask them to donate their services for you to auction off. Or rope in your colleagues, who could promise to wash cars, do housework, or expense claims for the highest bidder.

Arts stall

Let your imagination go wild and reap the rewards. Try making greetings cards, pot pourri or jewellery to sell.

B

Back to Front Day

Get sponsored to wear your clothes the wrong way round for a whole day.

Bring a Book

Get colleagues to bring in old books and sell them for charity.

Bring and Buy Sale

We bet you've got loads of junk in your cupboards and under your bed. Why not raise some money by organizing a Bring and Buy sale.

Busking

If you have a talent with an instrument, set-up a stall and ask for donations for requests/pass the bucket round for spectators.

C

Cake Sale

Get some colleagues to help, get baking and sell your cakes on to your work colleagues. Earn extra cash by getting everyone to contribute the recipes they've made and collate them into a simple recipe book to sell alongside and earn extra cash.

Coffee Morning

Bake some cakes, bring out the coffee and they will come. Remember to charge them for the privilege.

Concert

Get some talented friends or colleagues to perform in front of those less talented. Or, vice versa for a laugh. Charge an admission fee and organize a collection during an intermission.

Cycle-a-thon

Get sponsored for every mile you cycle.

Chocolate Ban

Get sponsored for every three days you can go without chocolate - or for every day without, if you're a serious chocoholic!

D**Dance marathon**

Get people to sponsor you for every five minutes of boogying you manage - or for every song you shimmy to.

E**Egg and Spoon Race**

All you need is some spoons, some eggs, some willing volunteers and it a bit of space in which to race. Charge participants to enter, with the winner of the race being awarded a small prize.

Easter Egg Hunt

Charge parents to take their kids off their hands after school for a couple of hours - plan an Easter egg/ sweet hunt in the office to keep them amused.

F**Fairs, fetes, bazaars, etc**

Get yourself a big space (a hall, a field or even a car park) and let your imagination go crazy. Set up a coconut shy, apple bobbing stand, small races and white elephant stalls (a table at a fund-raising event, with items for sale on it which are deemed by their owners to be "white elephants" i.e. not useful but probably were not that cheap and so too valuable to be thrown away).

Fashion Show

Work with a local designer to organize a local fashion show for clients and/or staff and their families.

Fun Run

Get sponsored to take part in an organized race - or organize your own with colleagues and a local running club.

G

Go-Karting

Organize a group of mates to head to the local Go Kart track. Inform the staff of your fundraising efforts and hope that they waive the admission fee - best to go off-peak times if you want to give this a try. Ask each person to pay a fee to enter a series of races. Award the winners a small prize each.

Guess the Weight...

Find something suitably heavy - anything from a jar full of sweets and ask friends, family, colleagues to guess its weight. Charge folk a small sum to enter and buy a small prize for the winner.

Give up a vice

Whether it be smoking, biting your toenails or your daily chocolate bar - get sponsored to give it up for a set period - or ask people to sponsor you per day.

H

Hair beading/plaiting

An idea for a stall at a fete. Charge people a small fee.

Halloween party

Best organized around the 31st October, encourage friends, family e.d. to dress the part and run a fancy dress competition with a small prize for the winner. All guests should pay a small entrance fee to attend.

Hot Dogs

Sell hotdogs one lunchtime. Bring a bowl of chilli along for chilli dogs. This is easy as the ingredients are cheap and everything can be heated up in a microwave.

I

It's a Knockout competition

You need space for this. Get some teams together and arrange assault courses, games and quizzes galore. Each team member pays a few pounds to take part - with the winning team being awarded a prize.

International Days

Hold themed evening events to let people know more about the countries you in which your

company has offices. Cook themed food, have appropriate music, hang appropriate posters or airlines/cities etc. and charge a small entrance fee to cover costs.

Ice-cream Eating

Either get sponsored by a local dairy or buy huge tubs of ice cream and sell them by the scoop as cornets on a hot day.

J

Jumble sale

Dig around under the bed and at the back of wardrobes for anything you can sell and organize a jumble sale. Get your friends, family or/and colleagues to get in on the act selling their own unwanted items - perhaps they could donate a percentage of their profits to your gap year cause.

Jazz Night

Along the same lines as having a concert, but this probably has to be a band

Jog-athon

Get sponsored to every mile you complete outside or on a treadmill

Jewellery Making/Selling

Buy beads and wire in bulk and get creative. If necessary hire some help (& tools). Should be particularly profitable around Christmas time.

K

Karaoke competition/display

Rent a karaoke machine and hold an event in a local club or the boardroom. Sell tickets, or make it a competition and charge people to enter, and pass a bucket around.

Kite creation

Run a kite-making workshop and then hold a grand kite-flying session.

L

Longest chain of paper clips, line of coins, etc.

Get sponsored per metre by getting colleagues to donate as they pass by putting a coin down every time they go past.

M

Marathon events

Hire a local hall, or see if you can get one free for a good cause. Hold a marathon table tennis, aerobics, line dancing or badminton session (in shift teams). Get relevant companies to sponsor you in exchange for publicity in the hall (local gyms, sports shops etc.). Get sponsorship from colleagues and their family.

Mini Marathon

Get sponsored to run five or ten miles around your town, or the equivalent around your garden. The smaller the area the better - just make sure you change direction occasionally to reduce dizziness!

Murder Mystery Night

This could be great, especially if you're a member of an amateur dramatics group, or work with a drama group at a local college to help you out.

Magic Show

Put together a magic show and get donations when performing at family parties.

N

Nature Trails

Know a bit about the wildlife in your area? Charge people for guided nature walks.

O

Obstacle Course

Set up a hard-core obstacle course and charge people to race. Hold a sweepstake on the winner.

Office Collection Day

Stick a pot on your desk with notices telling people what you're raising money for. Loudly remind your colleagues that it's for a good cause.

Outgrown Clothes Sale

This is good if you know lots of families with kids. They bring clothes that their sprogs have grown out of, and buy clothes that others have brought.

P

Penalty shoot-out competition

People pay to enter; you get your hands on a signed football or some sports goodies for the winner. Get a football team or sports shop to donate the prize.

Photo Competition

Charge people to enter. Get a camera-shop to donate a prize and judge the comp - good publicity for them.

Plant Sale

Requires forward planning. Buy packets of seeds, plant them, and when they're starting to impressive, set up a stall and sell the plants.

Q

Quizzes

Quizzes are very popular and hence a good way to make money. They can be done in person or by email.

R

Races

Be imaginative - think sack-races, baby races, electric wheelchair races, stiletto races... charge people for entry and get a local company to donate a prize.

Relaxation Day

Bring in a massage therapist to perform neck and back massages for a donation.

S

Silly games afternoon

Egg and spoon, silly races, wet sponge throwing... use your imagination.

Strawberry and cream tea party

Hold the party at home or in the office on a sunny day, or around Wimbledon, and charge for tickets.

Sponsored Silence

Could you talk for your country? Think your family and colleagues would pay good money to shut you up for a day? A sponsored silence is really easy to organize.

T

Theme days/evenings

There are loads of possibilities.

Throwing wet sponges at a person in stocks

Great at a summer fair!

Treasure hunt

People pay you for the first clue. You lay a trail of clues, with a top prize at the end. Car treasure-hunts can work really well.

Tuck shop

Buy cheap multi-packs of chocolate bars and crisps and sell them at extortionately inflated prices. This works well at offices and factories, as well as schools and youth clubs. Sell home-made cakes and cookies too if you've got time to bake them.

Tennis Tournament

Hold your own mini-Wimbledon. People pay to enter, and the winner gets a prize donated by a local business. Sell champagne and strawberries-and-cream to the spectators.

U**Unwanted Gift Sale**

Get your colleagues and family to donate their unwanted Christmas gifts in early January. Flog them shamelessly.

V**Variety show**

Does anyone play the didgeridoo? Can your dog dance the tango? Put on a variety show with a difference!

W**White Elephant stall**

Sell anything and everything you can get your hands on at a fete, jumble sale or car boot sale. You'll be amazed at what people will buy...

Who's that baby

Get old baby-photos of your colleagues. Stick them up around your office and get people to pay to guess who they are. Needless to say, you'll need a small prize for the winner.

Wine Tasting

Hold a wine-tasting evening. Get a wine importer to donate a few bottles for the tasting, get in some (Dutch) cheese and when the bottles for them at the end (for a small profit).

Y**Yo-Yo competition**

Get people to pay to enter; hand out small prizes for duration and tricks.

Z

Zany Dress Day

People at your office or school pay a quid or two for the chance to come dressed as celebs, as animals, in their team's strip, or all in pink...