

Fun-raising Ideas



Heads or Tails

- Money donations for this game can be collected a number of different ways. Sell tickets at the entrance or collect donations throughout your event. Play the game when everyone at your event is gathered together and sitting in chairs. Have everyone who donated to the Heads or Tails game stand up. The emcee flips a coin and players must decide if it will land heads or tails, putting their hands on their heads or their rears to indicate their guess. Players who guessed wrong are eliminated and sit down. The game continues until one person is left. The winner gets a predetermined prize.

Bidding for Blue Plate Specials

- Participants need a sense of humor for this dinner fundraiser. Each person brings a single serving of a dinner. Dinners can be as simple as a sandwich or as fancy as lobster tail, depending on what each person wants to do. Dinners are covered during the auction but may be revealed during the bidding on occasion to spice things up and encourage higher bidding. Bidding may start high or low to imply the quality of what is being bid on, but opening bids may be deceiving to add to the game. Most items won't be revealed until the bidding is over. Participants may get a great deal on a steak dinner or end up with the most expensive scrambled eggs they've ever bought. All in the name of a good cause.

Balloon Pop

- Fill hundreds of balloons with air, tie a knot in the end of each balloon and store in large trash bags. Use a foot or hand air pump to speed up the process. Keep extra balloons and air pump on-hand so you don't run out of balloons. Contestants participate in groups of three and pop as many balloons as they can in one minute. The contestant that pops the most balloons wins a prize.

Wet Sponge Toss

- Fill several large plastic tubs with water. Add 20 or more sponges to the tubs. Ask an adult volunteer to sit in a chair. Visitors pay tickets to throw a wet sponge at the adult sitting in the chair. Each contestant gets three chances to hit the adult with a wet sponge. If the contestant hits the adult, they win a small prize. The game is similar to a dunk booth, but costs much less to setup.

Pass the Penny

- Two participants join for a chance at winning a prize in the Pass the Penny game. Fundraiser guests pay to participate in the relay. Set up groups of two chairs at opposite ends of the room facing each other. One contestant stands beside one chair and the contestant's partner stands beside the other chair. The first contestant carries a penny in a spoon to the other contestant. The penny is then transferred to the partners spoon and that contestant walks back to the starting point. The pair of contestants who complete the relay fastest win a small prize.

Cupcake Walk

- Place numbered cards in a large circle on the ground. Write corresponding numbers on note cards and fold in half. Place the folded note cards in a large bowl. Turn on music and ask contestants to walk in a circle around the numbered cards on the floor. After 30 to 45 seconds, stop the music. Draw a card from the bowl. The contestant standing next to the corresponding number wins a cupcake. If no one is standing next to the number, there is no winner for this round of the cupcake walk.

Garage Sale

- Holding a garage sale can raise funds and help people de-clutter their lives and homes. Encourage those those involved in your organization to gather up all of the stuff they don't want or need (including clothes, household items or toys) and hold a garage sale.

Craft Fair

- If you have many talented people in your organization who enjoy making crafts hold a craft fair to raise funds. If there are not enough people to make different crafts limit your fair to something easy like homemade cards. Everyone can make them and they will be easy to sell.

Carnival

- Carnivals are a great source of fun and entertainment. Set up a host of different activities that you would find at a carnival and charge people to enter. Offer baked goods, food and drinks for sale. This is a profitable fundraiser when you expect many people to attend.

Car Wash

- A car wash is another classic fundraiser idea. It is also simple and doesn't involve anything more than the name implies. Provide plenty of soap and water, and offer people quick car washes. If you can, offer extra services like vacuuming and waxing at a small, additional cost.

Calendars

- Calendars are relatively easy and inexpensive to make with modern computer technology. Use your organization, company, school or cause as inspiration, and take a different picture for each month of the year. Sell the calendars at a reasonable price. Calendars are useful and appeal to many.

Penny Drive

- Penny Drives ask people to donate the pennies that they have lying around. They can also donate any loose change or money they may have. Penny drives are good fundraisers because they don't make people feel like you are asking too much, but also give them the freedom to give as much as they want.

Dinner Theater Murder Mystery

- While you can arrange a murder mystery from the ground up, it's far easier to contact a local dinner theater and ask the cost of renting the whole theater for your event. If the theater performers would be too costly, contact the local amateur theater for actors. You can buy your murder mystery script online or write your own. Murder mysteries are very popular but you want to start planning far in advance to make sure that you sell out the event and that everyone practices and knows his role.

Carnival

- Setting up a charity carnival requires more sweat equity and a larger commitment from volunteers, but it also can garner a significant income for your charity. Build or rent a ticket booth, and set up a dozen games. Also, arrange for outdoor food and drink vendors. This event can be held right in your backyard, or contact a local church or arrange for city property depending on the size of your event. Getting many small prizes will enhance your charity carnival, but also consider having certificates for the "best" dart thrower or "number one" ring tosser made up using your charity's logo for winners as well. Possible charity games include the aforementioned darts and ring toss, a milk bottle knockdown, yellow duckie winning numbers, basketball hoops contests, a penny toss, a guess your weight game, horseshoes, and even a putt-putt hole in one.

Board Games for Charity

- Setting up time for folks to bring their favorite board games and set up a time for those interested to play. You could charge an entry fee or have donations made to play. If treated like a tournament over time, prizes could be offered for the winner.