

Fundraising Ideas

Bakes Sale: This is the classic fundraiser, have members of your delegation bake pastries and sell them to your school or at a local shop. Wal-Mart's are a great place to host a bake sale and generally make more money than selling during school, because there are more patrons and they have a bit of change to spend. Make sure your creations are colorful and eye catching, and make sure you are proactive and outgoing so as to maximize your profits. It also doesn't hurt to have a donations jar at the table for the people feeling extra generous.

Yard Sale: Have a yard sale. Have the members of your organization search their home for unwanted items and come together one Saturday morning to have a yard sale. The great thing about this is that the only cost to you is in a few signs. Also, if you make it clear that the yard sale is to benefit your organization, people are more likely to buy at a higher price. It also doesn't hurt to have a donations jar at the front table.

Consignment Shop: Just as with the above option, have members of your organization gather unwanted items and try selling them to a consignment or second hand shop. The plus side to this is that it does not require advertising or a great deal of time; however, consignment shops won't generally buy everything. If you're feeling generous with your leftovers, donate those extra items to local charities to help the community.

Ditch Dress Code Day: If your school has a dress code, this is the fundraiser for you. Talk to your administration and get permission to host a day in which students can ditch the dress code or uniform. Sell tickets that would allow students to wear casual clothes, hats, or some other attire that is normally not allowed for a single day. Take advantage of the fact that you are fundraising in a high school full of teenagers who will pay good money to break the rules.

Holiday Sale: Themed fundraisers are always fun. Try selling candy or carnations at school during Valentine's Day, Candy Cane Telegrams at Christmas, or Halloween treats around Halloween. People tend to be more willing to spend money around certain holidays, and this can boost profits. Again, it does not hurt to have a donations jar at your table, place your table by school vending machines and you can catch people with change as they leave the machine.

Raffle: Talk to local businesses and see if they can donate an item which you can then raffle. For example, gift cards to Blockbuster, a favorite restaurant, or you can approach a local movie theater and ask them to donate tickets to the first showing of a really hyped up movie. Then, purchase a basket and a few eye catching goodies from the dollar store to make your prize more appealing. Then set up a table and start selling tickets for a chance to win.

Car Wash: AutoZone or Advance Autoparts are usually willing to donate buckets and water for this type of fundraiser. All you have to do is supply the manpower and soap. Find one along a busy street on a Saturday morning and have a car wash. You can set a specific price or just ask for donations.

Bowl-A-Thon: This is a great fundraiser that both acts as a teambuilding effort and raises money. Contact a local bowling alley and ask them if your organization may bowl for free or at a

discounted price in order to raise money. Then have students get as many pledges from their friends and families as they can. For example, a parent may pledge 5 cents per pin their child knocks down.

Sponsors: Seek sponsorship from local organizations. Fifty dollars from one place and fifty from another really start to add up. It is best to dress professionally when you approach these businesses, provide a letter giving information on what you are seeking sponsorship for, and offer to pick up checks at a later date. Businesses can use these letters as proof for a tax break later in the year. Always speak to the manager of the business, and after the conference, be sure to send a thank you note detailing your experience.

Ways to Save

Share Costs: Identify other schools in your district that are participating in the conference and think about splitting the cost of a bus. Many school districts will allow schools to share so long as they are both from the same district. All you need to do is ask.

Rent a Car: If you are unable to locate another school to split the costs of a bus with, look at your district's policy on renting vans. These vehicles are often cheaper than paying for a bus and bus driver for three days and are especially money conscious if you are bringing a small number of delegates.

Fundraise Together: If your team is small and fundraising options are thus hard to come by, try contacting another school or another club within your own school. You can quickly turn a bowl-a-thon into a completion, or work together in a car wash. Either way, more people makes fundraising easier for all.