



Put the ‘FUN’ in Fundraising

Here are some more fundraising ideas to help you reach your fundraising minimum quickly!

- 1. Holiday/Birthday Fundraiser** - Instead of having a holiday or birthday party have a holiday or birthday fundraiser. Call local businesses and ask for their support by providing raffle prizes. During your fundraiser have raffles and a 50/50 to help raise money. Instead of gifts, ask your guests to make a donation to your fundraising campaign.
- 2. Host a Spring Cleaning Garage Sale** - Ask supporters to donate items to your “garage sale” that they’d ordinarily give away or sell. Set up shop at your office or a well-trafficked public space, and sell items in exchange for donations.
- 3. March Madness Open House** - Invite your community to join you at your office or a venue for a college basketball game screening. Have people donate to enter, and you can use the game as an opportunity to meet supporters face to face.
- 4. Create a Fashion Show** - The fashion industry follows the same cycle as the seasons, and spring is a great time to embrace “new” fashion. Host a fashion show and partner with local vendors, recruit volunteers for models, and charge for entry. You can even have each model create peer-to-peer fundraising pages and compete against each other for a prize.
- 5. April Fool’s Day Fundraiser** - Forty percent of people are adamant participants in April Fool’s pranks. Partner with local stand-up comedians or radio hosts and send an email campaign to appeal for donations. In exchange for a contribution, have the comedians pull prank phone calls. The larger the donation, the more severe the prank.
- 6. Host a Holiday Dinner or Party.** Examples; Easter Egg Hunt, Passover Dinner, High Tea, Mother’s Day Brunch, Father’s Day BBQ. Sell tickets to the event or partner with a restaurant to have a percentage donated to the SFF.
- 7. Flower Delivery** - If spring is known for anything, it’s flora. Partner with a local florist and sell flowers for pick-up and delivery. Early May is a great time for this fundraiser.
- 8. Earth Day Hike** - Hiking is a great outdoor activity, but it can be even better when it’s organized as a group event. Have supporters register for your hike ahead of time. On the day-of, provide guides and goodie bags, and award swag to top donors.



9. Arbor Day Community Garden - A community garden is a plot of land, public or private, that is gardened by a group of individuals. Identify a location, and ask your supporters to donate for the opportunity to plant in a plot in the garden. For example: If you have 10 plots, set a fundraising minimum and then award plots to the 10 people who donate the most money. To give others a chance to use the garden, make it an annual event and renew the competition each year.

10. St. Patrick's Day Pub Crawl - For this spring fundraising idea, plan a walkable route and partner with local pubs. To take it up a notch, give your crawl a costume theme, or award prizes along the way. Charge for registration.

11. NBA or NHL Playoffs Viewing Party - Spring is an exciting time for the sports world. As fans gear up for the playoffs, advertise a viewing party as a chance for your community to support their favorite team AND a great cause. Partner with a local bar to get part of their proceeds donated to your fundraising, or sell tickets to get in the door.

12. Golf Tournament - Golfers anxiously await the opportunity to get back on the green in the spring. Host a golf tournament and raise the stakes for entry. Set donation requirements. Appeal to local businesses to secure prizes for the lowest scoring participants. You can use a four-person, best-ball format, and provide goodies for their registrants, like beverage carts and raffle entry.

13. Spring Fling Dance - This spring fundraising idea is inspired by the popular high school dance. Rent out a large space, ask for donations in exchange for tickets, and choose a theme for a night of old-fashioned fun. Want to put a spin on it? Host it at a roller-rink.

14. Spa Day - Attract donors with mud masks from the comfort of an indoor spa. Partner with local facilities for donated services, then have people donate to your campaign for a spa service.

15. Plant Sale - In the spring gardeners gear up to get their plants in the ground. Many plant seeds indoors in the colder months so that they are ready to transport into the soil when the ground gets warmer. Tomato and pepper plants are often started indoors in March, while several varieties of vegetables can withstand spring frosts. Plant seedlings in late winter and then sell them for donations in early spring.

16. Lawn Mowing for a Cause - For much of the country, spring is the season of cleanup. Stray sticks and stones have wandered into yards, and the grass—having finally escaped the snow—looks unruly as ever. Take the burden off of your community, and advertise a lawn



maintenance and moving service in exchange for donations. Recruit landscapers to volunteer their services.

17. Bird House Building Contest - Chirping birds are all around this time of year, and people are building and shopping for houses and seed for their backyards. Get creative and run a woodworking contest. Ask for a donation in order to register for the event. Have people vote for the best house with donations.

18. Petting Zoo Day - Partner with a local zoo or farmer to set up a child's Spring time dream come true. "Animal babies" can be a theme. Sell tickets, and have your community come out to see ducklings, lambs, and more.

19. Beach/Grounds Clean Up - To make it even more dynamic, couple this spring fundraising idea with another activity, like a barbecue or outdoor concert. Ask for donations, and give your supporters a chance to feel like they physically made a difference and moved you closer to achieving your mission.

20. Field Day Games - This popular high school event involves teams competing in races and activities such as a three-legged race or game of basketball. Registration should include a donation. Include a 50/50 raffle and a silent auction.

21. Local Radio Stations - Call your local radio stations to inquire about free public service announcements (PSA).

22. Sponsor A Mile - Ask people to sponsor a specific mile of your race. You can post your split for those miles or a picture of that mile marker.

23. Donate \$26.2 - If you are running a marathon, ask your friends and family to donate \$2.62, \$26.2, \$126.2 or \$1,026.2 to represent the miles you are running.

24. Local Fundraising Stands - Set up stands in front of a local grocery stores, shops, restaurants and police/fire departments to collect donations.

25. Goals! - Set small daily, weekly, monthly goals so it does not feel so overwhelming. Post your goals in a visible location so you and those around you are inspired.

26. Trivia Night - Create a trivia night at local restaurants or bars.

27. Fundraising Flyers - Make free flyers about your fundraising campaign with postermywall.com.



- 28. Car Wash** - Hold a car wash. Change locations and have one weekly.
- 29. 50/50 Board** - Run a 50/50 board at work or at kids/ local sporting events. \$1 a ticket or 6 for \$5
- 30. Yard Work** - On social media, advertise that you will work a few hours of yard work for a donation.
- 31. Veteran Organizations** - Go to local Marine Lodges and Military Leagues. They are always looking for worthy causes. Ask to speak at their next meeting, and explain why you are fundraising.
- 32. Fundraising Friday** - Create Fundraising Friday challenges/goals, and post about them on social media every Friday.
- 33. Facebook Fundraising Page** - Set up a separate Facebook page with pictures and training photos.
- 34. Farmer's Market** - Set up a small stand with information at the local farmers' market.
- 35. Sponsor Your Training Mileage** - Email all your family and friends to let them know how many miles you're running today. Make sure to include a link to your fundraising page. Ask your supporters to sponsor your mileage. If you're running 19 miles that day, maybe ask for donations of at least \$19 that day. Equating your hard work training with donations is a great way to keep your donors involved in the journey and excited about helping you reach your goals.
- 36. Raise \$500 In A Week**
Day 1: Start by sponsoring yourself for \$30
Day 2: Ask five family members to contribute \$20 each
Day 3: Ask five friends to contribute \$20 each
Day 4: Ask five neighbors to sponsor you for \$15 each
Day 5: Ask seven co-workers to contribute \$10 each
Day 6: Ask three businesses you frequent for \$25 each
Day 7: Ask your boss for a company contribution of \$50
- 37. Lemonade Stand** - Have a lemonade stand with your kids or neighborhood kids. Sell baked goods along with the lemonade.



SEMPER FI

F U N D

ARMY · MARINE CORPS · NAVY · AIR FORCE · COAST GUARD

38. Create a "Semper "Fi(ve)" Challenge!"

Ask potential donors to:

Take just "Five" Minutes to donate "Five" Dollars or More - and pass the word to at least "Five" More People (email, Facebook, Twitter, ...)

39. Create donation levels - Start with a minimum donation of \$26.20. You can call this your 'marathon level,' and offer any person who donates \$26.20 some small token of your appreciation. Your next incentive could be called the 'double marathon level.' Anyone who donates a minimum of \$52.40 gets the first token and something extra special. (For instance, everyone who donates \$52.40 could have his/ her name printed on the back of the t-shirt you will wear during the race.) The final incentive is the 'ultra marathon level.' For this level you could offer anyone who donates \$100 or more the small token, their name printed on the back of race t-shirt, and their own special shirt.

40. Write A Blog - A good way to encourage donations is to start your own blog. This can be done easily and for free at places like eblogger or runnersworld. Send emails to all of your friends and family to let them know about your new site. On your blog you can document your training and your fundraising efforts. You can tell fun or inspiring stories about your progress, track donations raised, and provider a link for donations. People like to know how they're helping you meet your goals. Include pictures whenever possible.

41. Throw a simple fundraising event - Talk to a local bar or restaurant. Tell them that you'll host a party at their venue if they agree to donate a portion of the evening's proceeds to your charity. Many places are happy to do this on a weeknight. Invite all your friends to enjoy an evening out and support a worthy cause. Many restaurants also offer nights that they share a percentage of sales : Pizza Hut, Papa John's, Domino's, Applebee's, Burger King, Wendy's, KFC, Subway, Chili's, Boston Market, Sonic, Jersey Mike's, Chik-Fil-A, Big Boy, Chipotle, Fuddruckers, O'Charley's, Papa Murphy's, Panera Bread, Dairy Queen, Outback Steakhouse, Friendly's, Baja Fresh, Ponderosa, McDonald's, Chuck E. Cheese, Quizno's, Blimpies, Little Caesars, Krispy Kreme, Arby's, Buffalo Wild Wings, Sweet Tomatoes, Rio Bravo, Ruby's, CiCi's Pizza, Black-Eyed Pea, Tortuga's, California Pizza Kitchen, Pizzeria Uno, Zany Brainy, TRU, Bruster's Ice Cream, Fazoli's, Loco's Deli, Taco Cabana, Jamba Juice, Lone Star Steakhouse, Moe's Southwest Grill, Red Robin.

42. Host A Night at the Casino Fundraiser - Talk to an area casino to get a great deal on a bus. Invite all of your friends to join you for a fun night out., The extra money you earn over the cost of the bus goes to your fundraiser. Hopefully a few people will win money on the trip and give a bonus donation at the end. Everyone will have a great time while helping a great cause.



SEMPER FI

F U N D

ARMY · MARINE CORPS · NAVY · AIR FORCE · COAST GUARD

43. Video Game Night or Contest

44. Five Simple Fundraising Ideas

1. Raffles
2. Guessing games- like guessing how many coins are in the jar
3. Pub Olympics at local bars
4. Treasure Hunts in town
5. Computer Game Competitions.

45. Create a March Madness style bracket.- Set your goal of 100 people and have each person donate \$25. Every day of your fundraiser draw a name from the 100 people involved. Each day the person drawn wins \$25. The names drawn on Fridays win \$50. The income of \$2500 minus the prize money of \$875 = profit of an easy \$1625.

46. Tap Into All Your Networks and use your Address Book - Make a list of all your different social groups , both online and off: professional groups, church groups, coworkers, classmates, etc. Sometimes support can come from unexpected places. Brainstorm the best way to approach each group. A few examples: Set up a donation jar at work. Ask your coworkers to put a dollar in every time they swear. For networks like your college friends, making a Facebook page or group with the link to donate digitally might be more effective as they are likely to be scattered around the country. Send emails or letters asking for people to support your event.

47. Shave Your Head - Offer to shave your head when you hit your goal.

48. Create a Protection Donation - With a “protection” game, people have to donate to protect themselves from something they don’t want to happen. You can get really creative with the punishments, like a toilet campaign. When a toilet appears on a neighbor’s front lawn, he or she has to donate \$15 to have it removed, \$20 to have it placed on someone else’s lawn and \$25 to buy “toilet insurance,” ensuring the toilet will no longer appear on his or her lawn.

49. Organize A Something-a-thon - Example; Push Up-a-thon. Use physical feats as potential ways to raise money. Physical challenges are a great way to rally donors behind your cause, and can work for you no matter your level of physical fitness.

50. Pub Quiz Fundraiser - Everyone has sat in front of the TV yelling that they know the answers to questions on Who Wants to be a Millionaire so hold a pub quiz fundraiser and find out who really is knows it all.



SEMPER FI

F U N D

ARMY · MARINE CORPS · NAVY · AIR FORCE · COAST GUARD