

Top Band and Orchestra Fundraising Ideas

Door to Door Musician:

Premise: A quick way to raise money for bands is simply to go door to door asking for donations to the school band. Students should go in pairs to keep things entertaining and safe. Students can play a short tune much like Christmas carolers perform.

Tip: Instruct students to never go inside a house without having an adult they know there. Safety First!

Musical Telegram

Premise: Musical telegrams are always in demand because no one ever does them, but they are definitely a treat to have.

Sell tickets in advance to have people order a musical telegram for a special someone! People can order for a group of students to play a song from a list provided to them for a donation. Then on the day of the event, the musicians will go out to each house and perform the songs!

You can also sell cards to go along with the musical telegram as well!

Band Collections and Raffles at Games

Premise: The school band traditionally works closely with the football team. Try talking to the athletic director to see if you would be able to hold a raffle at football games. Fans and supporters can either donate money or buy raffle tickets for a chance to win a prize at halftime or at the end of the game!

Flamingo Fundraiser

The fundraiser requires its team members to not only like to have fun and create a little bit of mischief, but also to be able to meet and work at night.

The only material you need are pink lawn flamingos! The more birds you buy, the higher the shock value of its victims! (You can always buy other lawn decorations as well). In total, initial investments may come out to be a little over \$100. However, you will be able to make this back and much more at the end of this fun event.

Once you have your lawn decorations, pick out your first victim! At night, sneak over to the house, and place the flamingos all across the lawn. Then place a ransom note that can be easily seen demanding a donation for the removal of the birds. You can either set a fixed amount, or decide to leave the donation amount up to each individual.

Once the ransom is paid, the victim family gets to pick the next family to get "attacked." The process is then repeated until the group has reached their target fundraising amount.

You can always target more than one house at a time, which requires more flamingos, but can pay off more in the end.

Offering flamingo "insurance" at the beginning of this campaign is a good way to raise funds without the trouble of setup. Insurance will guarantee a house not to be flocked.

Rubber Duck Race

Premise: The rubber duck race fundraiser is a really great fundraiser that can be thrown year after year. Participants look forward to events like these year after year, and each year adds on from the year before due to the added publicity and word-of-mouth buzz.

Basics of a Rubber Duck Race Fundraiser:

Rubber ducks are sold to entrants who then write their contact information on each duck they choose to purchase. Make sure that the contact information is written with permanent marker. Test some under running water to be sure that the names/contact information does not rub off.

At the day of the event, the ducks are placed on a river or a pond. With a preset "finish line" in place, the duck that reaches it first is the winner!

Be sure that: 1) You test out to see that the ducks are indeed able to get to the finish line (no branches/logs that obstruct the path completely) and that you obtain the necessary permissions or permits from a city official before the event.

To make the event more interesting, you can try placing "obstacles" that trap some ducks, so that those in front are not always guaranteed to win!

As for prizes, it is a good idea to offer a 2nd place and a 3rd place prize as well, so that there isn't only one winner. Prizes can be donated from local businesses in exchange for sponsorship.

Making this fundraiser as a community event is crucial to its success. Invite friends and family to the event and make it a city-wide competition. You can use local newspapers, radio stations, school and church bulletin boards to build up anticipation prior to the event. Having nice prizes would also draw more attention from more people.

Having local sponsors sponsor this event monetarily or with supplies should be relatively easy. Simply explain to them the fundraiser as well as the potential reach they have in the community. Invite the local television stations to cover the event to help build a stronger reputation for the following years.

The key to the event is also to make it as festive and fun as possible. Helium filled balloons and streamers are cheap but very effective in making any venue look more lively. Having food and beverage carts also help raise the festive mood as well as additional funds.

Battle of the Bands Concert

A great fundraiser that involves working with another school is a Battle of the Bands concert. This can be a great fundraiser, especially if the schools involved have a lot of school spirit. Band directors from both schools would organize this event together. You can either host the event at a neutral field, or to alternate between the schools each year. The competition can extend to involve cheerleaders, the dance team, color guard, etc.

Revenue would come from ticket sales at the door. The schools can agree to split ticket and concession stand sales.

A band director from a different school could serve as an impartial ear to judge the winner of the battle. To add to the competition, you could award the winning school a trophy they can hold onto for that year, until the competition next year.

Cakewalk Fundraiser

The cakewalk fundraiser is a great fundraiser that allows the entire group to participate. It is also very fun and a relatively inexpensive way to raise money.

Ask several people to bring a cake to the event. Place the cakes along a table and a number next to each cake. For each cake, place a corresponding number into a container.

Start of the round: Participants can then buy tickets (\$0.50 ~ \$2.00) which will then be placed inside a box. The winner of the round will then draw a number from the cake jar and win that corresponding cake.

At the start of the next round, participant will then buy and purchase more tickets. Participants can purchase as many tickets as they wish.
Variation to the game

You can allow winners of the round to pick the cake of their choice, instead of merely picking a cake at random.