

Top Boy and Girl Scout Fundraisers

Cardboard boat races

Premise: Cardboard boat races are a fun way to fund raise for everyone in your group. Be sure to establish the rules beforehand to prevent headaches and additional troubles on the day of the event. Decide what materials would be allowed and how much of each material is allowed.

Funds are raised through entry fees from each contestant. Depending on the number of entrants you have, this fundraiser can both be very profitable and fun for everyone. Have sponsors donate prizes in exchange for publicity in order to pocket all the funds raised.

Costco Candy Fundraiser

Selling Costco candy is a very popular and low-risk fundraiser for middle school and high school students. Candy bought in bulk is relatively cheap, costing roughly \$0.50 and can be sold at \$1.00. Depending on how big your group is, and the amount of candy sold per member, this fundraiser is relatively easy and simple to throw. The only difficult aspect of this fundraiser is making sure that all the finances work out in the end. Because each member will be in charge of their own candy and sales, extra caution should be taken to ensure that none of the money is lost! That being said, this fundraiser is popular throughout high schools across the nation, and used to raise funds to throw school dances and other school related event.

Material Needed:

- Candy (Hershey's Chocolate, Snickers, Skittles, etc.)
- Candy Bags (candy bags are used to collect both money and hold the candy in
- spreadsheet with members names, candy dispersed, and money collected

Raffle Fundraiser

A great community based fundraiser is a community raffle! Have members in your community donate unused items to your group. These items can include anything from old baseball gloves, kitchenware, unused computer hardware to office supplies! The items to be raffled are completely up to you and your group. More expensive items generally draw more attention than common-place items.

Place the prizes in a central location. People can then buy raffle tickets at a set ticket price (most groups tend to set the price at \$1.00/ticket). They can then place their raffle tickets in boxes in front of each item that they'd like to win. There is no limit to how many raffles one person can put in for a particular item.

After all raffles have been used up, ask neutral audience members to draw names from the boxes! This fundraiser is great for communities because it gets everyone involved!

This fundraiser has been used at Disney offices (raffle prizes ranging from NBA basketball tickets to paintings/drawings), raising thousands of dollars for charity events!

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.

Murder Mystery Fundraiser

A murder mystery is a unique fundraiser that will allow all members of your group to participate, raise money for your cause, and create a memorable experience for all. Murder mystery parties are popular for all ages, young and old.

You can find murder scripts online or write your own!

Depending on the venue and how big you want to make the event, entry ticket prices can vary by quite a lot. Some groups have hosted murder mysteries in hotels, which also included catered dinners and charged \$100+ per ticket. Others have held them in living rooms and charged a far less amount for tickets. You should decide on how expensive you want to make the event based on your target audience and what you think they'll be willing to pay for.

If you're able to do so, send press releases to local media well in advance of your event in order to raise publicity, which will in turn increase ticket sales.

Make sure to rehearse with the "actors" and volunteers beforehand to ensure everyone knows their script and role. When guests begin to arrive, they should be shown into the event room and told to mingle with other guests. You may make it obvious which people are actors (by having them wear costumes) or you may choose to have the players mix in seamlessly with the guests. Once most of the guests have arrived, it's time for murder. There are a couple of ways to carry out this part of the fundraiser. One is to have the murder be carried out in the room where the guests are located. The lights should flicker out, and when they come back on, the body will be in the room. While the lights are out, you can have sound effects, such as a gunshot or a scream, to add to the drama. Another option is to have someone playing a police officer enter the room and inform the crowd that there has been a murder.

Either of these options will work equally well. The back story and clues are the backbone of this event more so than the actual murder.

After the murder, guests will spend time mingling with the actors, trying to extract clues and figure out whodunit. If a sit down dinner is being served, continue to offer clues during the meal, perhaps having the waitress share clues with the guests as she serves them. At the end of the night, the guests will answer some questions such as who did it? And why did they do it? Offer prizes for the correct or best answers.

Because several different scripts are available for murder mystery dinners, you could hold this event on an annual basis without having to repeat the exact same performance.

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.