

# Fundraising Lesson and Ideas For School Field Trips

## Fundraising Lesson Plan

Before coming to Youth University, have your students become active in the community by participating in fundraising. Fundraising is important for students so they can learn how to support themselves, their community and a cause they feel strongly about.

Starting early in the fundraising process can able you to plan learning units centered on the campaign. You can begin by sending home a note to parents explaining what your students will be talking more about for this year's fundraiser - not because there's a push to sell more items but instead because you are using it as a chance to bring real-world learning experiences into the classroom. Point out the benefits students will gain from reinforcing oral and written communication skills and math concepts during this period. Ask parents to come into the classroom and discuss their careers. For example, careers in marketing, advertising, writing, design and manufacturing all have direct applications to the business of fundraising for a more educational experience.

Once parents are informed, you can focus on classroom logistics by dividing students into business teams based on their strengths. Each team should include a strong writer; a good speaker; a mathematician and an organizer suggests researchers.

## Develop Planning Skills

Illustrate organizational skills throughout the unit by having students plan and set classroom goals. For example, if everyone in the class will receive a portion of the proceeds towards their fees, have each team brainstorm about how the money can be raised and how much money should be raised in total.

## Creating a Sense of Ownership

Having students take charge of a fundraising event, that they have developed, can create a sense of ownership, especially when the money will be going towards their school trip. In order to support their trip to Youth University, below are several great ideas that you and students can engage in to start raising money.

## Fundraising Ideas

1. Stop the Bop: During the time between class play an annoying song over the P.A. system, tell students and teachers that the song will stop being played once you have raised a certain amount of money. This is a fundraiser that can be done a few times a year because you can change the song. Tip: The first time you do this; keep the goal amount low, so it is attainable.
2. Dress-down day: If you attend a school that requires a uniform, have a day in which all the students can wear casual clothes. Charge each student who wants to participate.
3. School Sleepover: Kids will love it because they get to spend the night with their friends and parents love it because they will get a night off- have students pay an admission fee to attend the sleepover.
4. Guess the age of your teacher: Organize an event in which students pay to guess the age of your teacher.
5. Band and choir concerts: Ask your school band or choir to donate their time by performing a benefit concert for your cause.
6. "Get-out-of-jail-free" card: Pay to get out of a class period for a day. Ask permission from your teachers or principal first.
7. Walkathon: Choose a date and a route, make up some pledge forms, and advertise with posters. Have everyone who wants to participate gather donations or pledge using their pledge forms.
8. Bag groceries: Ask a local grocery store if you can bag groceries for donations. Be certain to put up a sign saying what the donations are for.
9. Jellybean count: Fill a jar with jellybeans and have people pay to guess how many there are in the jar.
10. Raffles: Sell tickets and keep ticket stubs. On the date of the draw, have someone close his or her eyes and pick a ticket stub from all the ones that were sold. Do this publicly. The winner receives a prize.
11. Carnival: Hold a carnival in your local park or schoolyard. Invite students, staff, and the community. Charge admission and/or a small fee to play games. (games, prizes and popcorn)

12. Spelling bee: Use the dictionary and come up with a list of words of increasing difficulty. Have participants and spectators pay to participate.
13. Hold a theme party: Decide on a fun theme. Charge an entrance fee, but be sure to explain to people what their cover charge is going towards.
14. Day of community service: With your class contact a number of organizations where you would be interested in volunteering. Then have people sponsor you to do community service for 24 hours.
15. Food fast: Get together with your class, gather pledges, and fast for a full 24 hours.
16. Craft sale: Make all the crafts yourself and sell them.
17. Family barbecue: Host a family barbecue in your school yard, with games and activities.
18. Three-on-three basketball tournament: Organize a basketball tournament in your school with the winning team receiving a prize. This can also be done with soccer, tennis, badminton, or any other sport.
19. Beat the goalie: Pick the best hockey or soccer goalie you know and invite people to try to score a goal for a prize. Every participant has to pay to play.
20. International dinner: Have people from various ethnic origins cook traditional foods, and then charge admission to an international dinner.
21. Balloon pop: Before filling a balloon, put a note inside. Have a certain number of the notes worth a prize. Have people buy balloons and pop them in the hope of getting the prize.
22. Scavenger hunt: Set a route and make a list of items that the participants need to find in order to win. Advertise your scavenger hunt well and charge everyone a small fee to participate. The winning person/group gets a prize.
23. Car wash: With a group of friends, set up a car wash in the parking lot of your school, church, or public area.
24. Pet show: Invite students to show off their pets in a show. Make it a competition that people pay to enter, and offer a prize for the best groomed pet, most- and least obedient pet, and so on.

25. Talent show: Have students enter a talent show and charge a fee for people to come and watch.
26. Comedy hour: Host a comedy skit during lunch at your school and charge people to attend.
27. Nacho party: Plan a morning to make nachos and popcorn, which can be sold during lunch.
28. Face painting: Have a face-painting day. Advertise in advance and then charge a small fee for painting young kids' faces during a school day or on a weekend.
29. Sports tournament/fitness competition: Organize a sports tournament or fitness competition. Advertise well and charge spectators to come and watch groups compete.
30. Crazy hat day: Have students pay a fee to wear a crazy hat to school for the day.
31. Game show: Recreate one or more of your favorite game shows and charge contestants a small entrance fee. Sell tickets to the audience.
32. Karaoke: Rent a karaoke machine, sell tickets or charge an admission fee, and sing all night.
33. Kilometer of coin: Gather donations of coins (pennies, dimes, or quarters) and lay them side-by-side until they stretch out to be a kilometer long. Alternatively, surround your gym, library, or parking lot with the coins.
34. Fly on the Wall: Have a teacher start by standing on a chair against the wall, and have students purchase a piece on tape for \$0.25, at the end see if the students were able to keep the teacher stuck up on the wall once the chair is removed.
35. Toy sale: Hold a toy sale. The best season for this is just prior to Christmas.

It is important to keep in mind that the students should play an active role in the entire fundraising process including deciding which way to fundraise, and the tasks that go along with the fundraising. In this way, children can see that their actions are making a positive difference in not only their own lives but in the lives of others.