

Top fundraising ideas

Raising money can seem a daunting task, but you will be surprised how generous your family, friends and colleagues can be! We've put together a few ideas to help you get the ball rolling and have fun in the process...



Sell, sell, sell

Do you have something you never use that would be of value to someone else? How about putting your other skills to good use?

- Bake a batch of cakes and sell them at school or work.
- Put together a collection of unique recipes (we've all got one!) - from friends, family, local celebrities - and sell as a book.
- Homemade cards can be sold at a profit. You could also offer to write someone else's Christmas cards for a small fee.
- Unwanted gifts and nearly-new items lurking at the back of cupboards can be sold at car boot sales.
- If you've got loads of stuff and others do too, hold a bring & buy sale - and charge a small amount for each stall.
- If you've got a talent and the right training - use it! You could offer short shoulder massage sessions or create caricatures at lunchtime for a small fee.
- Feeling creative? Make some artwork/jewellery/ sculpture and sell to friends and family - or if it's really good how about selling it on eBay?
- If you're not the creative type, try getting local artists to donate a piece of work that you can sell.
- Sell yourself - auction yourself as a helper for a day to the highest bidder.
- Invite friends for an evening of clothes exchanging and charge them to come along. You'll all end up with a great new wardrobe for very little.



Make a fool of yourself

Everyone likes a laugh, so if you're up for it why not invite people to throw things (preferably soft/wet) at you? Even better, get a range of people involved - from a teacher at school to your boss at work - the more the merrier and the more money you'll raise! Don't fancy that? How about spending a day dressed as a chicken (or similar), including going out at lunchtime?



Give it up

Have you got a bad habit like biting your nails, swearing or always being late? Do you want to stop eating chocolate or cakes to get healthier? Trying to cut out fizzy drinks? Think it's about time to stop watching so much TV? Get sponsored to drop your bad habits - the added incentive will make it easier!



Go green

Do your bit for the environment at the same time by collecting old mobile phones and used printer cartridges for recycling, you'll get a fee for most of these.



Dress up (or down)

Whether you fancy a day in jeans at school or pyjamas at work, or prefer the idea of full blown fancy dress or sports kit, people will pay a small fee to join in.

REMEMBER: The quickest and easiest way to get sponsorship is by creating your own online page and promoting it via email and Facebook.
We recommend using www.virginmoneygiving.com



Party time!

From quiz nights to parties, murder mysteries to karaoke evenings, there are endless possibilities when it comes to events. Just make sure you do your budget carefully and charge enough to cover your expenses and make some money!

- Use a local stream for a duck race - people pay you for each duck (rubber not real obviously).
- Hold a themed party - from the 60s to Halloween, beach parties to pirates - the world's your oyster.
- Get local shops involved with a fashion show - you may even persuade them to give you a percentage of any sales on the night.
- From speed Scrabble to competitive Connect Four, games evenings are increasingly popular. Charge an entry fee and get prizes donated.
- Quiz nights are fun, fast paced and can involve everyone - just make sure you don't make the questions too tough!
- Find out who's got the 'X Factor' with a karaoke evening - or maybe pay not to sing?
- Run a 'Britain's Got Talent' style talent contest, with a small fee to enter.
- A team treasure hunt in your town/local park or school with clues and prizes can be great fun.
- Don't forget to fundraise at your event as well - raffles/auctions and even donation tins/buckets can really boost your income.



Get competitive

Simple competitions can get the cash rolling in and can be organised to take place at work or school:

- Guess the number - balloons in a car, sweets in a jar, Lego bricks in a model. A cheap prize is to give the winner the items they've been guessing.
- Ask friends and colleagues to bring in baby photos and put them on a prominent notice board. People pay to guess who's who - you can offer small prizes for the winners.
- Create a treasure hunt map and sell squares - the treasure will be buried in one of the grids.
- Spot the ball is an old favourite or, increasingly popular if you have a field handy, is spot the cow pat. Just make sure the bull's not lurking in the corner!



Go local

Washing windows, mowing lawns, cleaning cars, feeding the cats while they're away - jobs your neighbours would be delighted for you to do at a small charge.



Get fit

From a mini-Olympics day or a five-a-side tournament to a work-out-a-thon at your gym, you can ask for sponsorship for these events. If you're the organiser, why not get people to pay a small entry fee as well as getting sponsored - that way everyone's a winner.



Do something completely different

Not inspired by a sponsored walk, swim or run? How about getting sponsored for doing something more unusual? Team hula-hooping, sitting in a bath of old baked beans, rapping on stage or knitting the world's longest scarf are just some ideas.



Change your look

Ever wondered what you'd look like with a different look? Shave your head, grow a beard or dye your hair green for a week - at least it's only temporary!



Movie madness

Has your school or workplace got a nice big room with a screen? Show movies at lunchtime or after school/work and collect a contribution from people who want to watch. You could borrow a red carpet and make people feel really special when they turn up! You can make extra money by selling popcorn and soft drinks.

REMEMBER:

- Check any health, safety and insurance requirements in advance.
- If you are holding an event in a public place, check any requirements / permissions with your local council.
- If anyone is going to be carrying collected money, think about personal security.
- Make sure you meet current laws, especially if you're running a lottery or raffle. Find out more at: www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk/About+Fundraising

**What have you done to raise money for the DofE? Let us know your craziest, most successful ideas!
email: supportus@DofE.org**