

Fundraising Event Ideas

Every successful fundraising activity relies on a great idea that will motivate others to participate. Below, you'll find a list of different event ideas that might work well in planning a fundraiser for your Lions Club.

"A-Thons"

Any event where participants raise money from individuals who pledge to give a set amount of money for activities performed during a set time.

Example: Ms. Smith pledges to give Mr. Jones \$5 for every mile he can walk on Saturday, March 5.

Types: Read-a-thon, run/walk-a-thon, dance-a-thon, bike-a-thon, bowl-a-thon.

Auctions

Events where people try to outbid one another for donated items; there are three common types.

(1) Traditional auction with an auctioneer: People are given numbers and as the auctioneer calls out items, as people want to place a bid, they hold up their number. Whomever bids the most money wins the item.

(2) Silent Auction: Items are arranged around the room and people place bids in a box, without knowing what anyone else bid. After a pre-determined amount of time, organizers go through bids and contact the highest bidder.

(3) Chinese Silent Auction: Items are arranged around the room as in the silent auction. When bidders enter the room, they purchase whatever amount of tickets they wish. The tickets are then placed in containers next to the desired item- bidders can put in one ticket or many tickets. After a pre-determined amount of time, organizers will draw one ticket from the container and the drawn ticket is the winner.

Balloon Races

Participants buy a number, which is then attached to an end of a balloon. All of the balloons are then released. The buyer of the balloon that travels the furthest and has its ticket returned to the organizer is the winner.

Arts & Crafts/Antique Show

There are two ways in which you can use this type of event as a fundraiser.

1. Charge people to have a booth to display/sell their arts and crafts
2. Charge people a nominal fee to enter the show as well as arrange an agreement with the vendors that for each \$1 worth of goods they sell, they will "donate" a set percentage to your organization.

Bingo Night

Participants buy BINGO cards at the door; usually it is \$1.00 for two cards. If your club doesn't already have the equipment to run a BINGO night, most party rental stores have equipment available. Selling 50/50 raffle tickets as well as pulltabs and food can help increase your profits.

Suggestion: Check with local schools and church groups, they may be willing to let you borrow their equipment.

Pancake Breakfast/Spaghetti, Chili, etc. Dinner

Provide salad, drinks and desserts as well as the main dish. Usually dinners like this cost around \$5 per person.

Themed Parties or Dances

Once you have decided on a theme: Beach Party, Costume Party, Holiday Party; try and find local businesses to support your cause by donating or discounting appropriate items such as decorations, food, non-alcoholic beverages, etc. Once you have all of the planning done, you can either sell tickets by running advertisements in your local media or by simply asking club members to sell tickets.

Raffle

Ask local residents/businesses/groups to donate services or goods for a raffle. Not only does this help out your organization, the business gains attention for itself. Make raffle tickets with room for people to provide their name, phone number and address for people to sell. At a prearrange place and time a drawing will be held.

Golf Tournament

This could be a great fundraiser for several clubs in an area to work together to produce. I have provided the following link to a New Jersey Lion's Club that has been successful in hosting an annual Golf Tournament; it also provides some ideas on how to organizing your own golf tournament.
<http://www.cranburylions.org/clubs/Lions/Golf2004/Index.htm>.

We hope that these ideas are a great starting point for you in planning a fundraising activity to help raise money for the Foundation. If you'd like additional advice on planning or promoting your event, or to share some of your own ideas with us, please contact the Foundation at 1-800-753-2265.