



# 30+ FUNDRAISING IDEAS

Coming up with fundraising ideas for mission trips can be daunting, but there are plenty of great ideas out there. The following are a few we've collected from experienced Youth Leaders to help you get started.

Take them. Alter them. Make them your own. And be sure to follow your community and church's COVID-19 precautions.

As you plan for your next mission trip, we hope these ideas inspire your fundraising efforts!

## FOOD-BASED EVENTS

1. **CRAWFISH BOIL** A true Southern delicacy! Boil about 800 pounds of crawfish and charge per plate. Make it an all-out event with music and decorations.
2. **BAKE OFF** Regardless of the culinary ability of the congregation, have members of the congregation bake or cook items to be auctioned off in support of the youth mission trip.
3. **10% TOWARD MISSIONS** Partner with a local restaurant to give 10% of people's bills toward the mission trip. Distribute coupons in church or elsewhere saying, "Use this coupon at Mamma's Kitchen on Nov. 12th and 10% of your bill will go toward our church's mission trip." The restaurant will benefit from potentially more people coming in and so will your trip.
4. **DESSERT COMPETITION** Have congregation members sign up to make their best sweet treat. Contact local businesses to donate prizes for the winners and for a raffle. Charge \$5 per person at the entrance and let everyone taste the desserts. Invite a local band to supply entertainment. Ask a local coffee shop to donate the coffee... make an event out of it!
5. **SUPER BOWL SUBS** Pre-sell sub sandwiches for Super Bowl Sunday. Get the produce donated and have youth put the sandwiches together. Have people in the congregation pick up their sandwiches after the Sunday service in time for the big game.

## RANDOM EVENTS

6. **NEWLYWEDS GAME** Hold a Valentine's Day event focused on the "Newlywed Game!" Invite older couples from the congregation to participate up front as newlyweds. Make it multigenerational and have youth be the servers.
7. **DODGE BALL TOURNAMENT** Charge \$10 per competitor and \$5 per spectator. Get a bowling trophy, cut and reapply the arm to make it look like a dodge ball trophy. Get key members of church leadership to participate with a full bracket if possible.
8. **GOLF TOURNAMENT** Run a golf tournament using members of the congregation to host and promote the event.
9. **THE FLAMINGO PROJECT** A classic. Members of the congregation can pay the youth group to place a bunch of flamingos in another person's front yard. People can also buy "Flamingo Insurance" to prevent the youth group from decorating their front lawn with plastic flamingoes.
10. **SERVE OUTDOORS** Pair youth up with members of the church who need gardening or yard work done. You could even consider helping with leaf or snow removal.
11. **5K** People can donate per kilometer or give a lump sum.

## AUCTIONS & SALES

- 11. SILENT AUCTION** Set out tables with items on them with bidding sheets at each item. Set a minimum bid for each item and give attendees a timeframe for bidding (like during Sunday service times when everyone is present). Items can come from a number of sources:

- Donations from students and members of the congregation, such as baked goods, furniture, new or gently used items, homemade jewelry, etc.
- Donated services from students and others who wish to support missions such as yard work, babysitting, cleaning, etc.
- Donations from local businesses such as gift cards or donated items
- Donations gathered and assembled into baskets of themed items, such as a bath basket, chocolate basket, tools basket, etc.

- 12. ASK LOCAL BUSINESSES** Go around to local businesses asking if they have any items they'd be willing to donate to an auction. It might be a tangible item (like a tool or toy), a certificate for food or a certificate for services rendered, like a massage or some roof work. Make sure to explain that it will be worth their while by finding a way to share with the community their generosity. For example, ask a local radio station or newspaper to donate some space so you can publicly thank your sponsors. A business may be more apt to give if they also see it as an advertisement opportunity.

- 13. CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE** Ask church and community members for donations for a rummage sale. Have the youth group help run the event. This could be a great community outreach event for people in your neighborhood to meet members of your church as they shop at the sale.

- 14. LIVE AUCTION** Host a lunch or dinner and auction off items from upfront. This may work in tandem with a silent auction where most items are put on the silent auction, but larger items are put in the live auction. This works well for donated items from local businesses.

- 15. DUCT TAPE BOUTIQUE** Have a youth night where everyone makes Duct Tape wallets. Look online for directions. Make lots of different color combinations, and Google search other things you can make out of duct tape, such as bags, jewelry or flowers. Then have students sell their items at a craft fair in the church or other youth events.

- 16. OODLES OF NOODLES & DOODLES** Invite students to submit their best original artwork based around a common theme. Presell tickets to the event. Display the art as a gallery and follow it up with a pasta dinner, with the student artists as servers. Follow the dinner with an auction of the artwork, auctioning the remaining pieces off in a live, fast-paced auction.

- 17. PIE-A-MONTH SUBSCRIPTION** At a larger auction event, have one of the prizes be a Pie Club Membership. Have several members of the congregation bake 5-10 pies each month to deliver to the lucky owners of these memberships for a year. Or have a baking gathering in the kitchen each month for the youth group during which they cook that month's pies. (Also works with muffins, bread, cookies, etc.)

- 18. DESSERT AUCTION** Host an all-church potluck to encourage the entire community to come together, then host a dessert auction where each student prepares their best dessert and auctions them off. If you have willing parties, auction off "pastor pies" to throw at the pastors' faces.

## SERVICE-CENTERED

- 19. SERVICE-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS** Provide an account for people in the congregation to donate to throughout the year. Have youth pastors find service opportunities in the church or community. Once students complete the service opportunity, the money from the scholarship can go into their personal mission trip fund.

**20. BUILD ON STRENGTHS** Tap into whatever strengths the youth already possess. If there's an aspiring chef, allow them to host a cooking event. If there's an aspiring dancer, allow them to perform in a solo recital. Build on strengths the congregation already has to build community and raise funds at the same time.

**21. SERVICE FOR HIRE** Have congregation members post odd jobs or service projects on a bulletin board that they would be willing to pay a teenager to complete. Youth can then take the postings at will and complete the job while earning money.

**22. CHURCH MINI GOLF TOURNEY** Set up a mini golf course around the inside or outside of the church. Be creative in making obstacles for each hole. On a Sunday, charge people for a putting club, a ball and a scorecard. Have prizes for the best scores. (This can also work with Frisbee golf outside.)

**23. PUMPKIN PATCH/CHRISTMAS TREE LOT** Set up a pumpkin patch or Christmas tree lot at church with presold tickets per pumpkin or tree. Ask for donations from local farmers or wait until later in the season so that pumpkins or trees are lower priced than earlier in the season. Make sure the congregation knows to wait for this event to buy their own pumpkins or trees.

**24. CHRISTMAS SHOPPING CHILDCARE** Choose one or two (or more!) Saturdays in November or December to provide freewill donation-based childcare for any parents who want to get their Christmas shopping done childfree.

**25. CHURCH CAR WASH** Before church one Sunday, have people check in their keys so the youth can wash and/or detail their cars during the service. Have a freewill donation can available at the key pickup table.

**26. FREE CAR WASH** Students receive pledges for donations per car and then go around the community, washing cars for free. If a student gets three sponsors and each sponsor pledges \$7 per car and the student washes 10 cars, they will have raised \$210 (3 sponsors x \$7 x 10 cars).

**27. MOVING SERVICE** Hiring professional movers can be costly. Students can help families or individuals with moving-related tasks by loading or unloading moving trucks (or even packing boxes). This service can be offered with a freewill donation for the upcoming mission trip.

## CREATIVE ASKS

**28. LOOSE CHANGE DRIVE** Collect cheap recyclable plastic water bottles and have the congregation fill them up at home with loose change they acquire over a couple of months. Or for a shorter event, ask everyone to return to church the following week with all the loose change they can find at home. Hold a competition and announce who found the most.

**29. MONEY WALL** Put 144 (or more) envelopes on a wall with dollar amounts \$1 - \$144 listed on the front. Have people in the congregation choose which envelope best suits them and invite them to fill the envelope with the listed amount on the front. A wall of 144 envelopes will raise \$10,800 if every envelope gets filled.

**30. SHAREHOLDERS** Sell "shares" of a student's mission trip. Each share also provides the shareholder with one ticket to the Shareholder's Banquet, which is held following the mission trip. One member of the team from the trip is the table host and is there to tell personal stories and show pictures from the memories the shareholders were able to fund.

**31. ADOPT-A-MILE** Divide the mileage to your mission trip destination by the total cost. Have donors sponsor the trip by the mile.

- 32. TALENT SHOW** Host a Talent Show featuring people going on the mission trip. Charge an entrance fee. This could also be done on Zoom!
- 33. DESSERT CAFÉ PLAY** Put on a church-wide play involving interested adults and youth from the entire congregation. Practice Sunday afternoons for about four months and then hold shows over a couple of weekends. Charge \$10-\$15 at the door and provide dessert and coffee to go along with the show.
- 34. BLACK TIE UN-FUNDRAISER** People buy a ticket to stay home! Especially fun if folks share pictures of their fancy outfits.
- 35. TRIVIA NIGHT** People can purchase individual admission to a Trivia Night. Make sure there are prizes! There could also be an opportunity to donate at the end of the night.
- 36. KID ENTERTAINMENT BUNDLES** Have students pull together craft projects (with instructions and supplies), homemade coloring pages, and a small toy (or three). Parents can buy a “Kid Bundle” for a donation. Parents could also buy a supervised video chat, where the teenager coaches the kid through the craft.