



FUNDRAISING IDEAS

The Civil Air Patrol Development Team has researched some commonly used fundraising ideas and has asked our General Counsel office to provide feedback on how they fit within CAPR 173-4.

Fits Within Fundraising Guidelines

Board Game/Video Game Tournament

How It Raises Money: Entry fee. Teams of people compete together during a [board game tournament](#) to raise money for your nonprofit or charity.

Considerations: Ask local businesses or supports to donate prizes for tournament winners. And, you can give “bonus points” to board game participants/teams that fundraise on their own for your cause. <http://www.fundraiserinsight.org/ideas/board-game-tournament.html>

Break the Balloon

Pop, pop, pop — how can you improve on the fun of popping a balloon? Having a prize given to you for doing it, of course! This idea is a simple fundraiser and can easily be incorporated into other events you're hosting, such as a fundraising dinner or fair.

Maybe a CAP dinner? <http://www.fundraiserinsight.org/ideas/break-the-balloon.html>

Car Wash

How It Raises Money: Pay per activity

Considerations: A location, access to water, and advertising are your biggest concerns here. Also, advertise a suggested donation (such as \$10 per car). [Car Wash Fundraiser](#)

Chick-fil-A Spirit Night

How It Raises Money: Pay per activity. Families get to enjoy a meal out, while supporting their favorite nonprofit or charity at the same time.

Considerations: Contact your local [Chick-fil-a](#) to schedule a Spirit Night event.

Cookie Dough Tub Sale

How It Raises Money: Sales of Product Sell goods for a “goods” cause.

Considerations: Pair your sale up with a parade or another event that brings your community together to get in front of as many people as possible. *NOTE: No homemade goods because of liability issues.* <https://www.otisspunkmeyer.com/fundraising>

Cornhole Tournament

How It Raises Money: Entry fee. Make friends and raise money while spending a spring afternoon in the sun playing cornhole.

Considerations: There's a chance that people close to your nonprofit or charity have cornhole sets lying around. So, before you invest in customized boards, check with your contacts. [How to Run a Righteous Cornhole Tournament](#)

Croquet Tournament

How It Raises Money: Entry fee. Croquet may not be the most popular sport, but it's fun for people of all ages and skill levels.

Considerations: Encourage participants to wear their most fabulous croquet gear. If you don't have the equipment, you'll find rental options at your nearby party rental business. Try hosting a 24-event like this one for the [Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund](#).

Fundraising Cards

How It Raises Money: General sale. There are many companies, both nationwide and local, that create fundraising cards, which are sold in exchange for a donation.

Considerations: Your unit may be responsible for finding offers to put on the card. Popular fundraising card suppliers include [Xtraman fundraising](#) and [Easy Fundraising Cards](#).

Golf Tournament

How It Raises Money: Sponsorship, Entry fee. People pay a pretty penny to golf, and businesses are often willing to pay for their employees to play a round in the name of charity.

Considerations: If you plan to offer incentives like a Hole-in-One prize, look into insurance. It's important to note that golf tournaments take a lot of preparation. If you have a volunteer base eager to assist, form a team to handle the nitty-gritty details. Each hole is sponsored by local entities. [Golf Fundraising Ideas](#)

Grocery Store Bagger

Grocery stores are often busy places where shoppers do their own bagging. This simple and undemanding fundraising idea lets you raise some money while providing a service that many in your community will find helpful.

Baggers should make sure they bag each shopper's groceries quickly and with a positive attitude — you could also offer to push carts and help with unloading shopping into the car too. If you have young baggers helping you out, make sure they are supervised for safety reasons when helping folks to their cars.

<http://www.fundraiserinsight.org/ideas/bagger-for-a-day.html>

Grocery Store Registries – Earn Cash Back

How It Raises Money: Other. Many grocery and chain stores, such as Target and Kroger/Harris Teeter, and Walmart, give a percentage of sales back to their communities.

Considerations: Jot down all the stories in your community and do a bit of research. Sometimes, you may just need to apply for a donation in-person or by letter from the company. Other times, customers will have to register online to designate their percentage to your organization.

Holiday Gift Wrapping

How It Raises Money: Pay per activity. Wrap presents to support your unit!

Considerations: It's common for large stores such as Walmart and Target to donate supplies to nonprofits and charities. Write up a request and speak to a manager before fronting the cost for wrapping supplies. [Gift Wrap Service Fundraiser Wrapping Paper Fundraiser - Charleston Wrap](#)

Hot Cocoa Sale

How It Raises Money: General sale. Does your community host a holiday festival, winter farmer's market, or another event that brings people together? If so, help community members warm their tummies by selling hot cocoa.

Considerations: Borrow or rent an insulated beverage dispenser (or two) from a local restaurant or catering company that holds the hot water.

<https://www.flipgive.com/stories/how-to-run-a-hot-chocolate-sale-fundraiser>
<http://www.elementaryfundraisingideas.com/hot-chocolate-stand-fundraiser>

Movie Night

How It Raises Money: Entry fee, General sales (concessions). Invite your donors, volunteers, and potential supporters to a family movie night. This fundraiser guarantees a crowd!

Considerations: Appropriate movie with box office share from national theater chain. There are companies out there that provide movie night equipment rentals. To minimize your expenses, ask a local business to sponsor the event and cover the cost of rentals.

Murder Mystery Dinner

How It Raises Money: Entry fee. Treat your guests to dinner and a show with a Murder Mystery Dinner fundraiser.

Considerations: This is another event that takes significant planning, but it's bound to be fun for staff, volunteers, and attendees. You can plan the event yourself or hire a professional company to do the legwork.

Museum or Zoo Night

How It Raises Money: Entry fee. Does your city have a museum, zoo, or aquarium that hosts special events after-hours? If so, then get on their schedule!

Considerations: This type of fundraiser is especially popular with millennials interested in mixing and mingling while making a difference. Museums, such as [Discovery Place](#), generally have rental packages available to fit any budget.

Patriotic Flags Fundraiser

How It Raises Money: Sales of Product. Instead of some of the standard products like candy, wrapping paper, magazines, discount coupon books, and cookies why not consider a product that is more useful.

Consider selling just prior to Memorial Day and Veteran's day. Encourage your patrons to put it on their lawn so that their neighbors can see their patriotism and perhaps look for the unit's cadet sales force on the next holiday.

Photo Contest

How It Raises Money: Online fundraising

Have participants upload their favorite photo of them interacting with your cause. Then, viewers can pay a fee to vote for their favorite. Considerations: Pay per vote fundraising companies are popping up online. Check out Tips for [Running a Successful Photo Contest Fundraiser](#), [Votdo](#) and [360 Photo Contest](#) for inspiration.

Ping Pong Tournament

How It Raises Money: Entry fee, sponsorships. Who doesn't love ping pong? Get your supporters in a competitive mood with a ping pong tournament.

Considerations: Before renting ping pong tables, ask your supporters if they have any tables that can be borrowed for the event. [How to Run A Ping Pong Tournament Fundraiser](#)

Recycle-Aluminum/Glass Deposit Donation

How It Raises Money: Other. Does your state participate in a bottle redemption program? If so, encourage your supporters to donate their bottle deposit refunds to your unit.

Considerations: A number of U.S. states, including California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Oregon, and Vermont have passed laws that establish deposits or refund values on beverage containers. Instead of relying on your supporters to compile and hand in their bottle refunds every week or month, partner with the bottle redemption companies to collect on-site. Or offer to help with clean-up of an event parking lot and collect the recyclables.

Restaurant Fundraisers

How It Raises Money: Entry fee.

Considerations: This type of fundraiser comes in two types: those that collect fundraising coupons and those that do not. For the first type, the restaurant gives the organization coupons to distribute to as many people as possible, and then those coupons are turned in to the restaurant on the designated night to determine how much money the organization gets. The second type still requires the organization to hand out flyers for the event, but the difference is that every order on the designated night is counted as part of the fundraiser. [54 Restaurant Fundraisers for Non-Profits](#)

Scavenger Hunt/Geocaching Tournament

How It Raises Money: Entry fee

Considerations: A scavenger hunt can be done online (through pictures) or offline (in person). Create a list of items (or mix it up with riddles) needed to win the hunt. Or a [Geocaching Tournament](#) To spice it up, encourage participants to donate extra money to unlock “special” clues.

Trivia Night – “Are You Smarter Than A CAP Cadet?”

How It Raises Money: Entry fee, Sponsorship. This is a PERFECT way to show what CAP cadets can do. Host a trivia night, such as one mirroring the popular show “Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader...”.

Considerations: You’ll need to plan in advance, hopefully with the support of the kids and the families that you work with. Here’s a great example of this fundraising event hosted by [Children First/CIS](#).

Recommended with Reservations

*Due to the number of variable details for this type of fundraising, more details would be needed to determine if the event would be an approved activity.

Cookbook

How It Raises Money: General sale. Ask your supporters to submit their favorite recipes to be placed into your organization's cookbook. Then, sell those cookbooks to friends, family, supporters, etc.

Considerations: Cookbooks make great holiday gifts, so plan to have the books available well before November rolls around.

Face Painting

Face painting is fun for the whole family and a surprisingly lucrative fundraiser for your nonprofit or charity.

Considerations: Recruit an artist or two to set up a booth at a community event. Kids ALWAYS want their faces painted- and it's a bonus for everyone when the money is going to a good cause.

Karaoke

How It Raises Money: Entry fee, Sponsorship. While it's not for the faint at heart, karaoke definitely has the potential to lift the spirits and wallets of your donors. Along the way, everyone will be making a fool of themselves for your organization.

Considerations: Before you rent high-quality karaoke equipment, ask around to see if you can borrow a set.

Local Celebrity Appearance

How It Raises Money: Entry fee. Does your community have a local celebrity that makes special appearances? If so, get on his/her schedule.

Considerations: Comedians, musicians, television personalities, chefs- celebrities of every genre and caliber live all around the world. Work with your favorite local celebrity to host a unique celebrity appearance fundraiser.

Ornament Swap

How It Raises Money: Entry fee. Supporters bring 2 ornaments that will be swapped, white elephant style, at an ornament swap party. At the end of the day, everyone winds up with 2 new, unique ornaments!

Considerations: Provide food, beverages, and a festive atmosphere and use the event as a way for your donors to mix, mingle, and connect with one another.

Photo Booth

How It Raises Money: Pay per activity. Printed pictures are a rarity. Give your supporters an actual picture to take home with them at your next community event.

Considerations: You don't have to go and rent a professional photo booth (although, that is an option). Instead, hang up some fancy wrapping paper and purchase some photo booth props at a party supply store. Then, grab a Polaroid camera and shoot away!

Restaurant.com

How It Raises Money: General sale. Sell discount restaurant vouchers with proceeds going to your nonprofit or charity through the Restaurant.com fundraiser.

Considerations: For more information on this fundraiser, visit the [Restaurant.com fundraising page](#).

Santa

How It Raises Money: Entry fee. Kids love Santa, and their parents love supporting worthwhile organizations. That's why a visit from Santa is a win-win for your nonprofit or charity and the community.

Considerations: Schedules get very hectic around the holidays. To ensure a good showing, plan your day with Santa at the very beginning of December. Don't forget to have an amateur photographer on-hand to capture all those happy faces.

Singing Valentine Telegrams

How It Raises Money: Pay per activity. Forget roses and chocolate. Give your supporters the chance to express their love with a singing Valentine.

Considerations: Have your staff and volunteers go out in groups to deliver these special messages on and around Valentine's Day. If the event is successful, do it annually! That way, people will come to expect it (and count on it) year after year.

Talent Show

How It Raises Money: Entry fee, General sale. Your community has incredible talents, allow them to show them off while raising funds through ticket purchases, food, and beverages.

Considerations: Work with local schools, athletic groups, etc. to get families involved in the fun.