

Creative Fundraising Ideas — A-Z

A

Art Show: Call your friends and invite them to a local café for a cup of coffee, conversation, and art sharing. Encourage guests to bring their own painting or decorative piece. Holding the art show at a public venue will help to receive other donations or purchases of art to ensure success.

Anniversary Celebration: Celebrate a birthday, milestone, recognize an accomplishment, or just say thank you.

Auctions: Hold a live or silent auction for various items and be creative. Prizes can include a prime parking space at work, a half or whole day off from work, team members working a day for someone else, a picnic lunch prepared by your team members, collectibles, or sports memorabilia.

B

BBQ or Bonfire Party: Host a party for neighbors and friends. Each family can bring a side dish and a donation. Set up some games and activities for children and roast marshmallows around a fire.

Babysitter Service: Give parents a rest and baby-sit their children for a donation.

Bake Sale: Bake homemade goodies and sell them at work or a busy local business.

Bean Bag Toss Tournament: Invite friends, family, and coworkers to come over and watch a football game on Sunday afternoon. During halftime, charge a fee to enter a bean bag toss championship.

Bingo: Everybody loves playing games of chance and winning prizes. Set up a large room with tables, make your own bingo cards and you are in business. This fun event works well for larger groups like schools or church groups. Charge \$1 per game or \$20 for unlimited games. Winners can select from a variety of small non-cash prizes. This is a fun activity for children and families to participate in.

Block Party: Organize a neighborhood block party, complete with food and drinks. Charge admission to enter.

Boss for a Day: Allow people to bid on being boss for the day. The highest bid wins.

Bowling Tournament: Create a bowling team that gets together one day a week. Each week of participation can include a donation.

Brat Fry: Set up a brat stand at church on Sunday or at a local park during a baseball or soccer game. Passerby will be sure to buy a brat for a good cause.

Brown Bag Lunch Week: Encourage employees to bring in their own lunches for a week and donate the money they would have spent to the team.

C

Carwash: People always need a good carwash. This is a great fundraiser for students and adults.

Casino Night: Host an evening featuring casino games.

Car Bash: Secure an old car, and write “MS” in large, bold letters across the car. For a donation, participants get to swing a sledgehammer and “Smash MS.”

Car Show/Rally: Car lovers have one thing in common – they love to congregate and show off their prized vehicles. Even if you cannot find enough people with classic cars, there are plenty of people in your community who are proud of their lowered trucks, decked out Honda Civics, and mud-loving Jeeps. This fun fundraiser is bound to bring a community together to support a great cause.

Challenges: Challenge someone to raise more money than you.

Chili Cook-off: It is the perfect time of year to hold a chili cook-off. Have a participation fee and sell bowls of chili to customers. Put together a fun panel of judges to find out who made the best chili.

Coin Drive: (Great for students) Place a large jar in the cafeteria and ask students and staff to contribute change from lunch. VARIATION: Penny Wars: Drop change in jars to compete against other departments, classes, bank branches, etc. Pennies are worth positive points; silver coins and cash are worth negative points. “Sabotage” the other jars by dropping silver or dollars in them.

Coin Toss: Get permission from the local mall to collect all coins tossed in the fountain for a designated time. Be sure to have signs stating that the coins will be donated to the National MS Society.

Collection Boxes: Create collection boxes and disperse them at church or work. Announce your cause or send out a reminder email each week.

Challenge by the Boss: Get your boss to agree that if all team members raise a minimum of \$100, that he or she will kiss a pig, get a pie in the face, etc.

Craft Fairs: Great for year-round fundraising. Set up a booth at a local festival and sell crafts.

Concert: Gather a group of singers and musicians for an evening of great music. Depending on the season you could have a themed concert such as holiday music or an evening of great music or a virtual concert broadcasted live on Facebook, YouTube or Twitch.

Concession Stands: Get permission to sell concessions at a local sporting or community event.

Cake Walk: Get friends to bake cakes. Walkers purchase tickets for the opportunity to participate in the cake walk. Place numbers in a circle and when the music stops, participants run to the nearest number. An emcee calls out a number and the individual closest to that number wins a cake.

D

Dance for a Cure: Students hold a school dance, or adults organize a dance at a local club. Ask a DJ or band to donate services and sell refreshments.

Darts Tournament: Charge an entry fee into the tournament. Bullseye.

Dinner Party: Host a dinner party with friends and family.

Dodgeball Tournament: Put together teams and let the games begin. Charge a participation and T-shirt fee.

Dog Walk or Dog Wash: Host a one-mile pet-friendly walk for dogs and their owners. Have a washing station at the finish line and accept donations.

Donut Days: Get donuts donated from a local bakery and sell them at work or school.

Donations in Lieu of Gifts: Celebrate your next birthday or upcoming nuptials by requesting donations to the National MS Society instead of gifts.

Dress Down/Up Days: Have employees pay to dress down at work. This can also work with schools that require uniforms (with permission). Or change it up and come in costume, pick a theme, or support a sports team.

E

Eat: Local restaurant chains are happy to host dine and donate night. Encourage guests to dine and the restaurant will provide the National MS Society with a percent of sales.

Ebay Sales: Ask friends and family to put one item up on eBay or donate an item to you. People may bid higher in support of an amazing cause.

Eighties Night: Host an eighties themed party.

Email: Send emails to your friends, family and co-workers asking them for donations.

Errand Service: For a donation, run errands for those who do not have time to do their own. Walk dogs, do yard work, clean a neighbor's home, etc.

F

Fantasy Football: Set up a league and charge an entry fee.

Fashion Show: Charge admission for your guests to check out the latest in fashion.

Fish Fry: Hold a fish fry at your church or community center and charge \$5.00 per plate.

Flag Football Tournament: This event is great for team building. Put teams of people together and charge a participation and T-shirt fee.

Flower Sales: Work with local florist or wholesaler to sell bouquets, potted flowers or individual stems at your school or place of work. Try this around Valentine's Day or other special holidays.

G

Game Night: Invite friends to your house to play board games or charades and sell tickets to raise money.

Garage Sales: Work individually or as a team. Allow customers to name a price. They will often pay more to support your charity.

Gift Wrapping: Take advantage of the holidays and charge a fee for each gift you wrap.

Go Door to Door: Go door-to-door and ask for donations. Work as a team to cover different sections of town.

Golf Tournament: Host a golf tournament with proceeds benefiting the National MS Society.

Guess the Number: Have guests or coworkers guess the number of pieces of candy in a jar and charge for each guess.

Guest Bartend/Serve: Ask a local restaurant to allow you to serve for a night with all tips going to the National MS Society.

H

Halloween Party: Invite friends and family to get dressed up and enter a costume contest.

Happy Hour: Ask a local bar or restaurant to host a fundraiser. Ask them to charge customers happy hour beverages at a discount and donate the difference.

Hat (or Cap) Day: Students can donate to wear baseball caps to school for the day.

Haunted House: For Halloween, organize a haunted house and charge admission.

Head Shave: Ask a local salon or barber shop to donate their services for a day.

Hike: Ask an experienced hiker to be the guide of a day-hike. People will be happy to donate to a good cause for a refreshing guided hike outdoors.

Holiday Cookie Sale: Parents and children can bake holiday cookies together. This is a great way to spend time together and raise money for a great cause.

Horse Riding: Charge a fee to teach people how to ride horses. This is a great activity for children.

Home Run Derby: Find sponsors to help run this fun activity. Prizes and awards can be given out. This is a great way to raise money and spend time outdoors exercising.

I

Ice Cream Social: Plan one at your place of work or with friends or children. Ask for a donation to attend.

Ice Skating or Hockey Tournament: Have local companies sponsor teams or a skating event. Creating a stand with hot chocolate is a creative way to generate more donations.

Indoor Cycling: Ask a local gym to hold a bike-a-thon.

J

Jewelry Sales: Work with a wholesale company to sell jewelry with your team receiving a portion of the sales or host a jewelry party at your home.

Jeans Day: Have co-workers dress down in return for donating.

K

Kickball Tournament: host a community kickball tournament and charge an entry fee for each team to participate.

Knit-a-thon: Get friends together and knit for a cure. They can donate the items for a silent auction to raise even more money.

L

Lawn Service: Mow your neighbor's lawn for donations.

Letter Writing: Send letters to friends and family explaining what you are doing and why. Tell them your personal goal and ask for help.

Luncheon: Invite friends and family to a luncheon and charge a fee for attending.

M

March basketball tournament: Secure a prize for the winner and ask for donations to follow your favorite teams to the big game.

Matching Gifts: This is a great way to double your donations. Ask your company to match what you raise.

Money Jars: Place jars where you work, on your desk or on store counters with info about the National MS Society on the front.

Monday Night Football Party with a Purpose: Provide refreshments and charge admission to the game.

Murder Mystery: Bring in actors, costumes, scripts, and accessories. This is a great way to for you and your friends to have a lot of fun and raise money at the same time.

Musical Recital: Put on a musical recital and showcase your talents for donations.

N

New Year's Resolution: Invite family and friends to join you in your New Year's resolution to raise a given sum of money for the National MS Society. Have a prize at the end of the year for the person who raised the most.

Night at the Movies: Invite your friends over for a night at the movies. Charge admission and offer popcorn, candy, and drinks to buy.

Nineties Party: Everyone loves a costume party. Sell refreshments and snacks and welcome donations.

O

Office Olympics: Set up interactive games around the office and crown a winner.

Ornament Sale: Get together with your team and make ornaments. Sell them for a donation.

P

Pancake Breakfast: Gather friends and family in your community and sell tickets for an All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast.

Pizza Sales: Work with a local pizza parlor to give you a percentage of the profit from the pies sold.

Paintball: Set up a paintball zone and charge for participation.

Plant Sale: Grow some of your own plants and hold a plant sale. This is a fun project for a wonderful cause.

Poker Run: Ride four-wheelers or motorcycles between each poker game. Charge a \$10 entry fee per vehicle. Riders stop at five different hospitality locations and playing cards are given out. At the end of the trip, the person with the best poker hand is the winner.

Polar Plunge: Collect pledges to take the icy plunge.

Pool Party: Make a splash for MS- have your guests grab their fins and floaties.

Pub Crawl: Invite friends and family to join a pub crawl around your town. Have T-shirts made and charge a fee. Speak with bar owners beforehand and see if they will offer drinks at a discount and donate the rest of the money.

Pajama Party: Plan a pajama party fundraiser. These can be held at your home or your cabin up north.

Q

Quilts: Sell quilt squares in honor and memory of people with MS — squares of 4x4 for \$5; 8x8 for \$15; 12x12 for \$25. Have employees make the quilts themselves. You can give away a handmade quilt that was made by someone on your team or donated to the team.

R

Read-a-thon: Charge participants and encourage them to get sponsors for their reading time. The winners can receive fun prizes.

Recipe swap: Have everyone bring in their favorite family recipe. Hold a bidding war and see how much “Great Aunt Sally’s Secret Recipe” will go for.

Roll Those Pennies: While you’re at it, break open the piggy bank and start rolling all of those coins that you have been collecting.

Recycle: Take in your aluminum cans and donate the proceeds.

Run/Walk: Coordinate a local run or walk for MS.

S

Sailing Competition: Ask a local yacht club to gather some experienced sailors and take out participants to race.

Salsa Night: Hire a salsa dance instructor. Charge for lessons and donate.

Scavenger Hunt: Individuals and/or teams pay an entrance fee to take part in the scavenger hunt. Each team is given the list of items they need to find.

Silent Auction: Silent auctions make great, low-cost fundraisers. They are also great social events since you will usually generate a crowd. Make sure to have one awesome final item so that the crowd sticks around until the end.

Sports Tournaments: Organize sports tournaments at a local school gym or community center and charge an entry fee. (Softball, kickball, tennis, basketball, etc.)

Sports Party: Host a party for the big game and charge admission.

Swear Box: Every household can do this. Anytime someone curses, a predetermined amount needs to be put in the box. At the end of the week/month the contents can be donated.

Student/Faculty Game: Organize a student vs. faculty sports game (basketball, softball, etc.) and charge admission. You can even sell concessions.

T

Talent Show: Unearth the hidden talents of those around you and get them involved in a talent show. People love watching others they know and care about.

U

Ultimate Frisbee Competition: Charge a participation fee and let the competition begin.

Unicycle Race: Hold a competition and see who can ride the longest. Include prizes.

Unwanted Gift Swap (White Elephant): This is great for the holidays. Have everyone bring a silly item they had lying around the house. Have them donate the money they would have spent on another gift.

V

Vacation Day Drawing: Get your employer to agree to hold drawing for a vacation day with pay.

Valentine's Day Flower Sales: Send out flyers and charge for flower deliveries.

Video Game Challenge: Charge a participation fee. This is a low-cost fundraising idea and a great way to get people of all ages to participate.

W

Wall of Shame: Vote for most embarrassing photo.

Wedding Celebration: Hold a wedding celebration party. Ask guests to donate rather than receiving anniversary gifts.

Wine Tasting: Wine tasting fundraisers can be as casual or as formal as you like. Try asking a local restaurant to donate food to go along with the wines.

X

Xtra Cents: (Great for bank and credit union employees.) Place a sign at the teller line and drive-thru window. "The CURE for MS may be in YOUR POCKET." Indicate that all proceeds benefit the National MS Society.

Y

Yachting: Ask the local yacht club to donate a three-hour cruise. Proceeds can be donated.

Yoga: Ask an instructor to hold a yoga class.

You've Been Framed: Ask all participants to bring in a funny home video. Have the group vote for their favorite video and have a grand prize for the winner.

Yard Sales: Clean out those closets to host a yard sale and donate the proceeds.

Z

Zombie Walk: Invite the public to join you in a Zombie Walk. This is a fun way for participants to dress up like zombies and stagger around to raise funds.