



Relay For Life ON-SITE FUNDRAISING IDEAS

A-Z



On-site fundraisers at Relay For Life events are not only an opportunity to boost your overall fundraising efforts, but also contribute to a fun and engaging atmosphere throughout the event!

You can easily turn your individual talents, hobbies, or interests into an on-site fundraiser. Some of the most successful fundraisers are what people spend money on anyway – food, entertainment, gifts, and personal services. Collect donations for your famous cookies or auction off a day working in the yard. The possibilities are endless!

When selecting an on-site fundraiser:

- **Ensure your fundraising idea meets all necessary guidelines.**
- **Know your audience.**
- **Promote it!**

Have fun! On-site fundraisers are a great way to build team spirit and the overall spirit of all those at the event.

Note: Any fundraising activities that include raffles are subject to state laws. Please contact your American Cancer Society staff person for details in your area before planning your activity. Also, check with your staff person prior to planning activities that may request waivers or additional insurance (e.g., dunk tank).

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY. TOGETHER, WE CAN FINISH THE FIGHT!

A

Auction* (Silent or Live) – Ask for contributions of unique items such as homemade toys or art, a hand-knitted sweater, breakfast or dinner at someone’s home, or a ride on someone’s sailboat. Display the items (or their description) prior to the event or on the day of the event. Some events may have each team donate an item to be bid on in a silent auction. Money raised from that item will go to the team’s total. Nice baskets can bring in a lot of money for teams!

**In auctions, the winner pays money for something of value. Since this is not gambling, it’s not regulated by state laws.*

B

Balloon Launch – For a donation, participants can purchase a biodegradable balloon and write a message to a loved one. At a point during the Relay event, everyone gathers around with their balloons and launches them at the same time.

Balloon Pop – Prior to the event, collect prizes or donated goods or services. Before filling each balloon with helium, put a note inside with the name of the prize. For \$1, people can buy a balloon and pop it for a prize.

Balloon Shave – Participants try to remove shaving cream off of a balloon without popping it.

Beads – Offer colored beads and letter beads, or take orders for personalized bracelets, key chains, and necklaces for a donation.

Bean Bag Toss – \$1 per throw, or three throws for \$2. Participants receive a small prize for a good throw, and they can trade in a set number of smaller prizes for a larger prize.

Bowling Chance – One dollar gives you two throws with a toy bowling set. If you throw a spare, your name is entered into a drawing once for a nice prize. If you throw a strike, your name is entered into the drawing twice.

C

Cake Drawing – For a fun and tasty fundraising idea, ask team members to bake different cakes and bring them to the Relay event. Participants purchase tickets, and you raffle the cakes each hour throughout the event.*

Cake Walk – Participants purchase tickets for the opportunity to participate in the cake walk. Numbers are placed around the track, and when the music stops, participants run to the nearest number. The emcee calls out a number, and the individual closest to that number wins a cake.

Caricatures – Offer caricatures at your campsite for a donation. It’s sure to be a hit!

Car Wash – Get teams together for a car wash

at the Relay For Life event site. This is a great idea for high school teams.

Children’s Activities – There is an endless number of carnival games and kids activities. Here are a few ideas – scavenger hunt, potato sack race, hula hoop contest, limbo, ring toss, board games (set up and ready to play), bingo, basketball shoot, baseball throw, knock down the cans, craft table, art contest, temporary tattoos, musical chairs, movies, pie in the face, or video game center.

Coffee Stop – Offer different flavors of hot or iced coffee for a donation. Get the coffee and cups donated to increase your team fundraising.

Crafts to Conquer Cancer – Offer crocheted ponchos, blankets, and quilts for a suggested donation, with 100% of the proceeds going to the Relay event.

D

Dance Lessons – Have swing, salsa, ballroom, or disco dance lessons at your campsite for a donation.

Decoration Station – Have foam stickers, such as hearts and flowers, to use to decorate luminaria bags for a suggested donation of 10 pieces for \$1.

Dedicate a Song – Have Relay event

continued on back

participants pay \$5 for a dedication and special song played for the person in whose memory they are walking.

Dollar Dance – Provide music at your campsite and ask for donations to dance with your team members.

Dunk Tank – Rent a dunk tank and dunk committee members, local celebrities, Team Captains, or other volunteers for a donation.

F

Face Painting – Set up a booth at the event and offer face painting for a donation.

Food to Finish the Fight – Accept donations for healthy treats and snacks, home-baked cookies, sandwiches, popcorn ... the sky's the limit! Your team could also offer breakfast for a donation. Pancakes are a favorite!

Fishing to Finish the Fight – Set up a "pond" with prizes floating in it. Request a \$1 donation to fish for a prize.

Fortune Telling – Use a crystal ball and tell participants' fortunes for a donation.

G

"Garage Sale" – Ask Relay event participants, friends, and neighbors to donate items for a "garage sale." Donate unsold items to charity.

General Store – Have extra campsite supplies available for a donation for people who forgot something (toothbrushes, toothpaste, extra socks, toilet paper, bug spray, sun screen, baby wipes, battery-operated fans, etc.).

Glow Gear – When the sun goes down offer glow-in-the-dark items for a suggested donation.

Gurney Rides – Ask the volunteer fire department to bring a gurney and offer rides to Relay event participants for \$2 a lap (adult supervision required).

H

Hair and T-shirt Shoulder Ties – Help participants cool off by tying up their hair and shirtsleeves. How about purple – the color of Relay For Life? Offer for a \$1 donation each.

Hole-in-one – Set up a portable putting green, and let people putt for a donation. For those who make a hole-in-one, enter their name in a drawing for a prize.

Hollywood Snapshot – Display a cardboard cut-out of a famous person and allow participants to take selfies with it for a donation.

Human Jukebox – Set up a decorated cardboard box with a singer inside. For a donation, participants can request songs to be sung.

J

Jail and Bail – For a donation, participants can have someone "arrested" and placed in "jail." That person must donate to "post bail." Alternatively, participants can have a bounty placed on someone's head. They are arrested and not set free until the entire bounty is raised (\$100 or more per person).

Jump Rope for a Prize – Offer the opportunity to jump rope in exchange for a donation. Have great prizes for the most times skipped.

M

Mexican Cantina – Decorate your campsite and offer non-alcoholic margaritas, Relay event tattoos, chips, and guacamole. Fiesta!

Midway Games – Bring the fair atmosphere to your Relay event! Host games at your campsite that encourage fun and safe competition.

Motorcycle Fundraiser – Ask a local dealer to bring a motorcycle and let children get their picture taken on it for a small donation. (Make sure the motorcycle is disabled and an adult is present at all times.)

Movie Tent – Charge a donation to watch a movie on a big screen with popcorn, candy, and drinks.

N

Nickel Toss – Have kids toss a nickel into a jar to raise money. All nickels go to the Relay For Life event, and the winners get a nice prize.

O

On-site Hair Salon – Ask a local hair stylist to volunteer his or her time to offer haircuts or braiding for donations. Suggested donation is \$20 per haircut.

P

Pitch to Finish the Fight – For a small donation, offer three baseball throws at three stacked milk jugs. Give prizes when all milk jugs are knocked down.

Photo with a Star – Dress up like your favorite cartoon character or celebrity and ask participants for donations to take a photo with you.

Photo Booth – Set up a sheet as a backdrop, and bring props like mustaches, wigs, and purple hats. Collect donations from participants who want to snap a photo with your props!

Plants and Flowers – Offer corsages, houseplants, or bouquets from your garden for suggested donation amounts.

Popcorn – Offer bags of popcorn for a \$1 donation each.

Popsicles – Ask a local grocery store to donate popsicles or frozen treats, and offer them for a \$1 donation each.

Princess Crowns – For a set donation, give out princess crowns made with curling ribbon and star garland. Include purple and white to represent the Relay event.

Purple Hair Color – Offer to temporarily dye people's hair purple for a donation.

Puzzle Contest – Put together a puzzle with all but the final piece. Then mix that piece in with another puzzle set and give away each piece for a \$1 donation. Once the puzzle is put back together, the participant with the extra puzzle piece wins a donated prize.

Q

Quilts for a Cure – Display quilt squares made by participants, and offer in honor and in memory of loved ones with cancer. Suggested donations are 4" x 4" squares for \$10, 8" x 8" for \$15, and 12" x 12" for \$25.

R

Relay Idol – Schedule a Relay event singing contest toward the end of the event to encourage people to stay. Offer great prizes for the winner and runner-up. You could ask a local music store to donate a gift card or CDs, or ask a studio to donate time to record a song. Bottom line – make it fun!

S

Score against Cancer – Offer light bulbs for a \$5 donation, in honor or in memory of cancer survivors. Light up a scoreboard with the bulbs.

Sing for Hope – With a karaoke machine, put Relay event participant names in one bowl and song names in another. Choose one name with each song. If the person selected doesn't want to sing the chosen song, it will cost him or her \$2 to get out of it. For an extra dollar, they can make someone else sing.

Snack Bags – Fill bags with homemade goodies, cookies, brownies, fudge, or rice cereal treats.

Suckers for Cancer – Offer suckers for \$1 each, and tie a mission message around each one.

T

Top Tent – Each team decorates ballot boxes for voting and donation collection. People enter a vote for their favorite campsite with a donation. The campsite with the most money collected wins!

U

Unique Boutique – Collect or make unique one-of-a-kind items, and include them in a silent or live auction.

V

Video Fun – How many times can you watch Forrest Gump? Offer gently used movies for suggested donation at the event.

W

Wedding Chapel – Charge a donation to "marry" people or renew their vows. You can have wedding cake, wedding photos, wedding bands, and a ride around the track in a golf cart with cans dragging behind. Make a cardboard cutout of a tux and wedding dress for fun photos. Each activity can require a donation, or participants can buy a package. All for fun – this would not be a legally binding activity!

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