



Relay For Life On-site Fundraising Ideas

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 involve things that people would spend money on anyway – food, entertainment, gifts, and personal services. Sell your famous cookies for donation or auction off a day working in the yard this spring. The possibilities are limitless!

When selecting an on-site fundraiser remember to consider the following:

- **Ensure your fundraising idea meets all necessary guidelines:** The best way to do this is to work with your local staff and committee to ensure that you are in compliance with all fundraising guidelines within your state and with the American Cancer Society.
- **Know your audience:** Keep it in mind that the Relay For Life program is made up of many different people. Proper planning, communication, and understanding of your audience can ensure that your activities are well received by those attending.
- **Communicate:** Don't forget to promote it! Make a plan to communicate fundraising plans. Share the details at the next Team Captain meeting and on your event website. Let your committee know in advance, so they can help get the word out the day of the event!

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.



On-site Fundraising Ideas A-Z

- **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/day of the event. Another way to look at this is to have each team donate an item to be bid on in a silent auction. Money raised from that item will go toward the team's total. This encourages teams to donate nice items.
*In auctions, the winner is paying money in exchange for something of value. This is not gambling, so state laws have no need to regulate.
- **Balloon Launch:** For a donation, team members can purchase a biodegradable balloon and write a message to a loved one. Near the end of the Relay event, everyone gathers around with their balloons and then you launch all of them at the same time.
- **Balloon Pop:** Team members collect prizes as well as donate their own goods or services as prizes. Before filling each balloon with helium, put a note inside with the name of the prize. People donate \$1 to buy a balloon and pop it to find out what they win.
- **Beads:** Sell colored beads and letter beads. Take orders for personalized bracelets, key chains, necklaces, etc. for a donation.
- **Bean Bag Toss:** \$1 per throw or three throws for \$2.
- **Bowling Chance:** A \$1 donation gives players a chance to throw two balls (toy bowling set). A strike, enters players' names into a drawing twice. A spare, enters players' names into the drawing once. Find a nice item to be donated for the prize.
- **Cake Drawing Every Hour:** Here is a fun and tasty fundraising idea. Team members bake different cakes and bring them to the Relay event. Tickets can be bought and then raffle off the cakes each hour at 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'll be a hit!
- **Car Wash:** Get your 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:** Carnival games and kids' themed games, scavenger hunt, potato sack race, hula hoop contest. Miscellaneous ideas: limbo, ring toss, board games (setup and ready to play), bingo, basketball shoot, baseball throw, knock down the cans, craft table, art contest, temporary tattoos, musical chairs, video game center, balloon shave, movies, pie in the face game.
- **Coffee Stop:** Offer different flavors of coffee for a donation. Get the coffee donated to increase your team fundraising.
- **Craft Sales:** Sell crocheted ponchos, blankets, and quilts. Make sure 100% of the proceeds go towards the Relay event.



- **Dance Lessons:** Have dance lessons at your campsite for a donation. Swing, salsa, ballroom, disco, and more.
- **Decoration Station:** Sell foam stick-ons (hearts and flowers) to use to decorate luminaria bags. Sell them at 10 pieces/\$1.
- **Dedicate A Song:** Have Relay participants pay \$5 to have a dedication and special song played for the person they are walking for at the event.
- **Dime-A-Dance:** Provide music at your campsite. Have other people pay to dance with your team members.
- **Dunk Tank:** Rent a dunk tank and dunk committee members, local celebrities, Team Captains, etc. for a \$5 donation for three attempts.
- **Event Garage Sale:** Ask friends and neighbors to donate items to for a garage sale, as well as all Relay participants. Donate unsold items to charity.
- **Face Painting:** Set up a booth at the event and offer face painting for a donation.
- **Food Sale:** Sell healthy treats and snacks, home-baked cookies, sandwiches, popcorn... the sky's the limit! Another idea: cook breakfast for a donation. Pancakes are always a favorite!
- **Fishing for a Cure:** Set up a booth that looks like a pond with poles, etc. with prizes floating in it. Charge \$1 to fish for a prize.
- **Fortune Telling:** Use a crystal ball and tell participant's fortunes for a donation!
- **General Store:** Have extra campsite supplies available for a donation for people who did not come prepared or forgot something (toothbrushes/toothpaste, extra socks, toilet paper, bug spray, sun screen, baby wipes, fans, etc.).
- **Glow Gear:** When the sun goes down sell stuff that glows in the dark.
- **Gurney Rides:** Ask the volunteer fire department to bring a gurney and offer rides to the Relay participants for \$2 a lap (adult supervision required).
- **Hair and T-shirt Shoulder Ties:** \$1 each
- **Hole in One Try:** Set up a portable putting green and for a donation let people try and putt the ball in. Put everyone's name in a hat that actually makes it. Draw for a Relay prize.
- **Hollywood Snapshot:** Get a cardboard cut-out of a famous person and have your picture taken for a donation.
- **Human Jukebox:** Set up a decorated cardboard box with someone who sings selected songs and ask for a donation for each song that is requested.
- **Jail and Bail:** For a donation, participants can be arrested. For an additional donation, they can post their own bail or participants have a bounty placed on their head, are arrested, and are not set free until the entire bounty is raised (\$100+ per inmate).
- **Jump Rope For a Prize:** Have people jump rope if they make a donation to the event. Have great prizes for the most times skipped.



- **Mexican Cantina:** Decorate your campsite in theme, have non-alcoholic margaritas, Relay tattoos, chips, and guacamole. Fiesta!
- **Midway Games:** Bring the fair atmosphere to the Relay event! Host games at your campsite that encourage fun and safe competition.
- **Motorcycle Fundraiser:** Have a local dealer bring down a motorcycle and let children of all ages get their picture taken on it for a small donation. (Make sure motorcycle is disabled and adult is present at all times.)
- **Movie Tent:** Charge a donation to watch a movie on a big screen with popcorn, candy, and drinks.
- **Nickel Toss:** Have kids toss a nickel into a jar to raise money. All nickels tossed go to the American Cancer Society, and the winner(s) get a nice prize.
- **On-site Hair Salon:** Have a local hair salon offer haircuts or braiding for donations to the American Cancer Society on-site at the Relay event. Ask hair stylists to donate all of their time, so 100 percent of the proceeds go to the cause. Suggested donation is \$20 minimum donation per haircut.
- **Penny Walk:** Ask participants to collect \$10 worth of pennies or other rolled coins and turn them in at the event. Then have them walk a special lap. In exchange for the \$10 donation, children receive a special prize for participating.
- **Pitch for a Cure:** Throw baseballs at three stacked milk jugs. Three balls for 50 cents. Prizes given for all milk jugs knocked down.
- **Photo with a Star:** Dress up like your favorite cartoon character or celebrity and ask for participants for donations to take a photo with you.
- **Photo Booth:** Set up a sheet as a back drop, and bring props (i.e. mustaches, wigs, purple hats, etc.). Collect donations for anyone who wants to snap a photo with your props!
- **Plants and Flower Sale:** Sell corsages and your donations will blossom. Sell your extra house plants or bouquets from your garden.
- **Popcorn Sales:** Sell bags for \$1.
- **Popsicle Sale:** Get a local grocery store to donate the popsicles/frozen treats and sell them at the event for a suggested donation.
- **Princess Crowns:** Sell princess crowns (curling ribbon and star garland). Colors include purple and white.
- **Purple Hair Color:** Sell purple hair color and offer to dye people's hair.
- **Puzzle Contest:** Sell puzzle pieces for \$1. The matching missing puzzle piece wins a donated prize.
- **Quilts for a Cure:** Sell quilt squares made by participants themselves. The squares can be sold in honor and in memory of people with cancer, squares 4" x 4" for a percentage, 8" x 8" for \$15, and 12" x 12" for \$25.
- **Relay Idol:** Schedule a Relay singing contest for the morning of the event (the 2nd day). This will keep people around. Have a great prize for the winner and runner-up (you could get a local music store to donate \$X of CDs or a studio to donate time to record a song)! But bottom line, make it fun!



- **Scoreboard for a Cure:** Sell light bulbs for \$5 in honor or in memory of cancer survivors. Light up a scoreboard with bulbs.
- **Sing for a Cure:** Have a karaoke machine and put participant names in one bowl and the list of songs in another. Choose one name with each song. If the person selected doesn't want to sing the chosen song, it will cost him/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, rice cereal treats, etc.
- **Suckers For Cancer:** Sell suckers for \$1 each and tie a mission message around each one.
- **Unique Boutique:** Collect or make unique one-of-a kind items for raising funds via a silent or live auction.
- **Top Tent:** Decorate ballot boxes for voting and donation collection. People enter a vote for their favorite tent site with a donation. Each site collects the votes and donation toward the total vote!
- **Video Sale:** How many times can you watch Forrest Gump? Sell those old movies at the event.
- **Wedding Chapel:** Charge a donation to "marry" people or renew their vows. Have wedding cake, wedding photos, wedding bands, and a ride around the track in a golf cart with cans on it. Each activity can require a donation or be done as a package deal. Use a stand up cutout of a tux and wedding dress for heads to take a photo. All for fun - this would not be a legally binding activity!