



## Relay For Life Student Fundraising Ideas

Use some of these ideas to assist your youth with their Fundraising before and during their Relay For Life event. These ideas have been used by successful youth Relays throughout the country. Encourage your youth volunteers include some of these great, fun ideas into Relay!

### On Campus Ideas

- **Baby Picture Contest** — Ask your teachers for a copy of their baby picture. Display the pictures so that students can buy guesses for a quarter a piece over a couple of weeks. Prizes can be solicited from local businesses. All correct guesses can be put into a barrel for a drawing for a prize.
- **“Get out of class” Jar** — Teachers have a donation jar that must be contributed to if one wishes to leave the class for personal reasons like the restroom.
- **Balloon Day** — Students take orders in advance to deliver balloons with a message attached. The balloons are then delivered on a specific date.
- **Lifesavers** — Sell Lifesaver rolls for a donation and tell the purchaser that they are “lifesavers” since their donation will go toward American Cancer Society research.
- **Hat (or Cap) Day** — For a specified donation, with permission from the principal, students can wear a baseball cap to school for the day. All donations go to Relay. Think outside the box: collect hats at the end of the day and donate them to camps for kids with cancer.
- **Paper Chain** — Make paper links in several colors. Sell links that will go toward making a chain for 10 cents each. Make it a competition by selling each class a different color link. The class that makes the longest chain wins. Bring the chain and donations to Relay!
- **“Run Smith, Run”** — A willing teacher at school issues a challenge to their class (or if they are really brave, the student body) to bring in money. For every \$50 dollars raised, the teacher will run one mile. Feel free to change name and dollar amount accordingly.
- **“Quarters for a Cure”**- “Quarters for a Cure” program in the schools consists of collecting empty film canisters and distributing them out to the students. They, in turn, collect \$7 worth of quarters in these canisters and turn them in at bank night of the Relay.
- **Dance for a Cure:** Hold a dance at your school with all proceeds going to the Relay For Life. Have admission be \$5.00 per person. Decorate with purple streamers and balloons. Give out Relay goodies as door prizes.
- **Caught on Tape:** The school principal or popular teacher allows students to tape him/her to the wall to raise money for Relay. The Relay team sells strips of duct tape and the students take turns taping the staff member to the wall.

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- **Balloon Day:** Students sell a Relay balloon with a message attached for \$2 each. The students take orders in advance and then deliver the balloon messages at a later date.
- **You Pick Live:** This is a fundraiser designed to involve student clubs within the school. Allow each club to randomly select a fundraiser and a prize. This would be done in front of the school to build awareness and to build excitement. Clubs hold their fundraisers. The club that raises the most money wins the prize that they randomly selected. The winning club will also receive a plaque to be displayed at the school.
- **Faculty vs. Students Softball or Basketball Game – Option 1** Those interested in playing would make a \$5.00 donation. The game will be held during the last class of the day. Those who donate \$2.00 to their last period teacher would get to go watch the softball game and join in the fun.
- **Faculty vs. Student Softball or Basketball Game – Option 2** Girls or Boys team play teachers. Admission is charged, sell concessions.
- **Superstars for Survivors:** Students vote on which teacher(s) that they would most like to see dressed up like their favorite or least favorite superstar. The teacher with the most money has to dress up like that superstar.
- **Feather the nest & See them Dressed:** This fundraiser is to be implement around the Thanksgiving Holiday. Students vote for their most favorite teacher by donating a \$1.00 to get a turkey feather. The teacher who has the most turkey feathers has to dress up like a turkey for a day.
- **School Mini Relay** – turn key package for planning and implementing available via staff person.
- **Pie in the Face:** Favorite teacher allows each class that raises \$100 for Relay give him/her a pie in the face!
- **Human Meat Balls & Spaghetti:** Students cover staff member in noodles and sauce as reward for reaching their fundraising goals.
- **Spring Fling:** School field day for Relay, with games, relays and dunking of Principal.
- **Putting a Face on Cancer:** Elementary School uses a real person fighting or lost to cancer as the focus of their fundraising efforts. This helps put a face on a disease most elementary students may be too young to understand. For example, if a student or staff member has been lost after a very long battle with cancer – put photo on button and have students wear on their Relay T-shirts.
- **Tree of Hope:** School paints a large, bare tree with many branches on hallway wall. Students sell suns and moons and place on tree as leaves.

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- **Theme Lunch Day:** School staff members sell lunches to other staff members, such as a potato bar, salad bar, or soup bar. Tickets are \$5 each. Can schedule and publicize throughout entire school year.
- **“Relay Bakery” Booth:** Sell donated snack items for 50 cents to students from booth in school hallway.
- **Read-A-Thon:** Students commit to asking teachers, family and friends to sponsor them on a per book basis or with a flat donation for the books they read during a designated time period.
- **Seniors Raffle:** Have high school Relay teams sell “get out of school early” raffle tickets for the seniors.
- **Children’s Olympic Games:** A “Children’s Olympics”, complete with award medals/ribbons and inexpensive prizes (all donated, of course). Traditional games could include:
  - 3 legged race
  - egg on spoon relay race
  - egg toss
  - disk toss
  - long jump
  - hula hoop – who can do it the longest
  - potato sack race
  - “dizzy lizzy” – run to other end and put your forehead on the top of a baseball bat, circle 10 times, then run back to tag teammate who does the same.
  - Sponge relay
  - Tug of war
  - Ball toss
  - Bubble gum blowing contest
- **All-Night Volleyball**
- **‘Green’ Fundraising** – encourage student teams to decorate cloth grocery bags and sell for a donation.

### **Individual Fundraising Ideas**

- **Jewelry Sale** — Make homemade necklaces and bracelets to sell to family and friends. Think outside the box: Use this opportunity to increase cancer awareness and support by using charms or colors. Example: add a pink ribbon charm for breast cancer or purple for Relay For Life.
- **Letter Writing** — The most effective way to raise a lot of money is to write a letter to your family and friends. Emphasize the importance of Relay For Life and your involvement in it.
- **(TIP:** Include a self-addressed stamped envelope with each letter. This increases your chances of getting donations. Make it as easy as possible for potential donors.)
- **Babysitting** — Do extra babysitting and donate all or a portion to Relay For Life. And ask the parents to donate to Relay For Life.

# Relay For Life Student Fundraising Ideas

## Team Fundraising Ideas

- **Bake Sale** — Hold a bake sale at school, church or other places in the community. Think outside the box: Try selling a favorite snack or sweet donated from a popular place to eat. This lowers expenses, preparation time, and you may find that you sell more.
- **Car Wash:** Get your team together for a local town car wash. This works great for high school teams.
- **Restaurants to the Rescue:** Ask a local restaurant or cafe to contribute a portion of the proceeds for a day. It could be for a certain menu item or ask the owner if a special Relay item can be on the daily special. Create a sign letting patrons know if they purchase this special, the owner will donate half the money to the American Cancer Society.
- **Windshield Washing:** Teams can collect donations for washing windshields as cars pass through drive-up windows in banks or fast food restaurants.
- **Ask for contributions for:**
  - The shirt off your back. Donors pay \$ to write their names on the back of the shirt that gets worn for 24 hours.
  - Food, any kind, any way, anywhere
  - Art, both professional & student (parents will donate money for their budding artist's work). Balloons. Donations for RFL balloons can be for \$2 each and make bouquets to be delivered by volunteers.
  - Candles,
  - Hair cuts. Have local salons sponsor a cut-athon with proceeds going to Relay.
  - Flowers
  - Jewelry
  - Yard, porch, garage sales...
- **Kiss a pig.** Put a picture of two or three teachers on a cutout of a pig and students vote. The one who receives the most votes has to kiss a pig in front of everyone. Obviously, this would have to be cleared with those involved.
- **Odd jobs for a fee.** Great for youth. Grocery shopping, yard work, handyman jobs for a donation.
- **Recycle** – plastic, paper or aluminum for your team
- **Vending machine.** Ask the school if they will designate the profits from one of your vending machines to the Society. If the company that provides the machine knows what's going on, they may give you a lower price on the supplies – or at least donate a certain amount.

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- **Pizza Box Promotion.** A local Papa John's pizza franchise has agreed to tape Relay luminaria and survivors' lap forms on all of their pizza boxes. Finally — something GOOD sticking to the top of the lid!!
- **Hot Pink Toilet.** Create a pink and purple Relay toilet with the RFL logo on it, and glow-in-the-dark stars and moon. Auction it off at a team captain's meeting for a team to "lease" for the season to use as a fundraiser. Flushing Out Cancer can continue every year with a different team. The tent site carries out the bathroom theme, with ideas such as each team member carrying a decorated toilet brush during the parade of teams and whenever one of them was on the track walking. Rig up a way for folks to deposit money in the seat into a secured lock box. When they turned out the lights, folks went bonkers over the glow-in-the-dark stuff at the Relay event itself.
- **Cigarette Vending Machine Demolition:** Charge money for people to take a swing at it with a mallet (remove glass first).
- **Power Minute-** For our recent youth Relay, the school counselor announced over the loudspeaker that there would be a "Power Minute." He challenged the students and teachers to find some kind of container and donate whatever change/dollars they could while he talked for 60 seconds about cancer and the mission of the American Cancer Society. At Lahainaluna High School (HI) they raised \$400 in one minute.
- **Pennies from Heaven-** Did you know that one milk jug full of pennies weighs 35 pounds? And did you know that 30 pounds of pennies is equal to \$50? Have each class collect pennies to raise money for Relay For Life. Celebrate the final day with an ice cream party. Take pictures and present the Relay with a giant check from the school.
- **Human Jukebox** – Set up a decorated cardboard box with someone that sings selected songs outside of a supermarket (after receiving permission) and ask for a donation for each song that is requested.
- **"Hot Dog for Cancer"** – Principal at an elementary school agrees that if ALL the teachers raise \$100 each, he/she would dress up like a hot dog and let the students squirt ketchup, mayonnaise, mustard, and relish on him/her.
- **Video Sales** – How many times can you watch Forrest Gump?
- **Charity Night:** Contact your local fast food restaurant or pizza place and ask if you can have a charity night at their location. Invite your classmates to come out and have dinner at the allotted time (i.e. 5:00pm-8:00pm). 20 percent of all proceeds raised during that time will be given to the Relay For Life.
- **Rock-n-Roll Party:** The neighborhood teens can get together for an evening of fun and music in your family room and the other parents can make a donation not to have the noise at their house.

## Relay For Life Student Fundraising Ideas

- **Krispy Kreme doughnuts sale:** Sell in driveway of school as parents drop off kids in the morning.
- **Battle of the Bands:** Ask local high school bands to compete against each other. Charge admission and have all the proceeds go to the Relay For Life.

### Event Revenue

- **Luminaria** —With permission, set up a table in front of a strip mall or grocery store and accept donations for luminaria from the shoppers. Have example luminaria out and use Society signs that draw interest. Think outside the box: Don't limit your market to locals. Write letters and e-mails to relatives explaining Relay, why you are doing it, and how they can help by making a bag

### Onsite Fundraising Ideas

#### Ask for a donation in exchange for:

- Food and drinks — and have a tip jar
- Have a local business donate an item and have a chance drawing
- Face painting
- Relay For Life Dog Tags
- Play board games — make a donation to play (great activity late at night!)
- Glow necklaces
- Baked goods
- Have several items donated and have a silent auction with items geared to youth
- Hawaiian leis or Mardi Gras beads
- Puppet show
- Video/Book/CD
- Moons and stars — hang them on a display and all around
- More food, snacks, drinks and ice cream
- Softball toss
- Book and videos
- Kisses — have a nice looking male/female with a tray of chocolate candy kisses
- 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
- Make a Difference — Dedicate a Song — Ask Relayers to donate \$5 to have a dedication and special song played for the person they are walking for at the Relay.
- Have extra campsite supplies available for a donation for those Relayers who do not come prepared (toothbrushes/toothpaste — have a dentist donate; extra socks, toilet paper, flashlight,
- bug spray, sunscreen, body fragrance, baby wipes)
- The hair stylists donated all of their time and set up a salon at the team campsite right near the track. A minimum donation of \$10 was collected and additional dollars are donated as well. Braiding hair can also be offered.
- Car bash: smash an old car with a baseball bat

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- Newspaper toss — Set up a door with a stoop and whoever gets closest win
- Paper bag hat decorating – bring in material, ribbons, paint, etc., to decorate hats

Provide listing of all fundraisers at Bank Night. Team Mentors can use their last call to Team Captains to ask if their team plans on participating in an onsite fundraiser. Include listing of fundraisers in all pre-event communications to teams and the community.

Remind everyone to bring Day of Event cash to support the other teams' fundraisers! Checks made out to American Cancer Society can be accepted by team captains for these fundraisers.

Send out email reminding the team captain of all of the activities and how exciting the event will be. Remind them to share all information with their team members.

Open your Relay Location 2 hours before the Opening Ceremony. This allows the teams 2 hours of additional fundraising.