

Student Fundraising Ideas



Use some of these ideas to assist youth with their Fundraising before and during Relay For Life. These ideas have been used by successful 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”** - 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.

Individual 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.
- **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.

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).
 - Donations for RFL balloons can be for \$2 each and make bouquets to be delivered by volunteers.
- **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.
- **Recycle** - Plastic, paper or aluminum for your team.
- **Vending Machine** - Ask the school if they will designate the profits from a vending machine 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.
- **Pizza Box Promotion** - Have a local Papa John's pizza franchise 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.

- **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.

Onsite Fundraising

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
- Play board games — make a donation to play (great activity late at night!)
- Baked goods (if site permissible)
- Hawaiian leis or Mardi Gras beads
- Puppet show
- Video/Book/CD
- 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.
- 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)