

Fundraising

(Version 1)

Compiled by



<http://insanescouter.org>

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Disclaimer:

Everything in this document was collected from a variety of online sources. The idea in this document may not work for every group.

Please email me at webmaster@insanescouter.org if you have any ideas you think I should add, have any comments or concerns.

Steps to Fundrasing

1. Create a plan & a back-up plan.
 - Strategize, Be Inventive.
2. Start Early. Do not procrastinate.
3. Educate your donors.
 - About what you are raising the funds for, don't forget to tell them how this will benefit them
4. Make Potential Donors Aware of the benefits of contributing:
 - A chance to send a boy to camp
 - Make a difference
 - A tax deductible donation
5. Follow Through. Send reminders to potential donors.
6. Recruit Volunteers to help you raise funds.
 - Friends, family members, co-workers, and significant others can be of great help in spreading the word
7. Give Back to donors.
 - Wear their logo, bake them cookies, throw a victory party in their honor, send a personalized thank you letter with a picture of you finishing the race.
8. Ask BIG before going small. Think Corporate and Big Money
 - Suggest higher levels of giving - most people won't do it, but there will be one or two who will because you asked.
9. Stay Positive, Keep a Good Attitude, Remember the Reason.
 - Fundraising comes with a lot of "No's" - forget those and keep going for the "Yes's". Plan for this so it doesn't take you by surprise.
10. Just ASK, ASK, ASK!!

Scouting Fundraising Consideration

1. Get all your Scouts, Leaders and parents involved as possible
2. Set up a rewards program. My favorite is setting it up so that a percentage, say 20% goes to the Troop Operational Budget, and the remaining 80% will be equally divided up between all the Scouts who participated. The money the Scout makes goes into his "Scout Account" which may be used for any Scouting related things such as Summer Camp, Dues, Camp Fees, Training Fees, or even camping gear.
3. Have the Scouts as involved as possible in the pre-planning of the fundraiser.
4. Make sure your Treasurer keeps tracked of all money raised as well as how much it cost to raise that money, such as upfront costs. This way you can track how much you actually made, and make sure the unit and any individual gets paid back.
5. Make sure you know what the rules are with your local Scouting Council as well as applicable local laws.

Fundraising Ideas

These ideas are designed to trigger your imagination. Do not forget to think about safety concerns as you make your plans, such as seeking permission where necessary, weather, and informing parents or guardians of your plans. The most important thing is to have fun!

"Free" Car Wash

Our youth group once raised funds by taking pledges on a car wash. Instead of charging to wash the cars each member went to family and businesses and got pledges, for example my grandma pledged 10 cents a car and a business pledged 25 cents. Each member was encouraged to get 2\$ in pledges, but many received more. A local grocery store let us use their hose and donated soap. On the big day we washed way over 100 cars for FREE!!! (Yep, free. We even had a sign NO Donations Please) Each person in our 35 member youth group raised at least \$200!!! WOW, that's a lot of money for a free car wash!!

Rock-A-Thon

If the kids are able to participate, have a Rock-A-Thon. The kids take pledges for rocking in a rocking chair for a certain number of hours. They rock together for, say, 10 hours and become closer friends while making the money in an easy way. Do crazy things for the kids during the Rock-A-Thon like throwing around water balloons around 3 am. After rocking, they collect the pledge money.

Silent Auction

Have a silent auction. Get local businesses to donate items/services. (Ask everyone...hair salons, car washes, big discount stores, record stores, vets, etc.) It is beneficial for the businesses to donate to you, as they can write it off on their taxes. Then invite the community to view the items and write a bid on a sheet of paper in front of the item. Highest bid gets the item.

Your Wish, My Command

I was once an assistant director for a kids camp. One of the "fundraisers" we did that the kids thought was pretty fun, and others too, was "Slave for a Day". We posted around town, schools, etc of a "slave" auction and the names of the "slaves" you could bid on. There was a minimum bid requirement and certain things (of course) that was a no-no to have the "slave" participate in. So, siblings, Aunts, Uncles, Parents, friends, all came to bid on their favorite "slave". Some of the kids just had to wash their Grandma's dog for \$20.00; But others may have to organize the garage for Dad for even more money (or a little less, considering the auction price). And still others, had to clean their little brothers room for his 3 weeks of saved allowance (\$10.00!) which humbled the "slave" and made the little brother smile for months!

It worked out quite well, and made quite a profit.

Medieval Times Mystery Dinner

This group sold tickets for a dinner and told the people to be prepared for anything. They took the four-course menu and coded all the items on it according to things present during Medieval Times, (for example: Broccoli became Sherwood's Forest). Each person had a certain number of blocks to fill in per course and they had to guess which encoded item should be served and when. So, many people ended up with their dessert for an appetizer and their main course as dessert. The dining hall was decorated to look like Medieval Times. They all dressed up as servants, princes and princesses, court jesters, monks and a cardinal. After dinner, entertainment was provided.

Shave Your Leaders' Head

Mike Addell, a youth leader, enlisted the help of his group to raise pledges towards making him shave his head. It took about three weeks to raise just over \$1,000. Then, at a Christian concert, Mike said goodbye to all of his hair and became as bald as you can get.

Special Holiday Child Care

Set aside special times at the holidays for child care at the church while parents go Christmas shopping. Provide videos, snacks, games, etc. for the children.

A Mile of Pennies

each Sunday people deposit their pennies in a receptacle provided at the church: 84,480 pennies = \$844.80; 16 pennies = one foot; 6 feet of pennies = \$96

Pink Flamingo

a pink flamingo lawn ornament travels from lawn to lawn of church members with a note attached to make contributions in the bag provided, and then a number to call to have the flamingo removed. If you do not wish to have the flamingo travel to your lawn, you may purchase flamingo insurance. Money collected from the flamingo bag and from flamingo insurance all goes toward the fund raising project.

Talent Dollars

Give everyone in your group one dollar from the treasury. Designate a certain time period in which each one will have to work. From this point on, it is up to the creativity of the individual as to how they can multiply their dollar. At the end of the designated time, have each one turn in the total funds. It might be interesting to listen to the stories of how each one multiplied the original dollar.

Halloween Insurance

Every year my youth group offers "Halloween Insurance" to parishioners and friends.

Basically for a donation we will "insure" that no "ghosts, goblins, or other Halloween Goal" will vandalize their home on Halloween night. If they do we will come the next day to clean it. Our insurance only covers the basics such as eggs, toilet paper, fruit, smashed pumpkins, etc. We've never had a claim and raised about \$150.00 every year.

Gulp & Give

A local dairy company donated 1/2 pint containers of juice to our MYF. One Sunday after Sunday school, the youth went around to the adult classes and passed out the drinks to each person. On the containers were labels with instructions to enjoy the drink, take home the container, rinse it out, and fill it with change, bills or checks for a given number of weeks. This was a successful, easy fund raiser.

BABY PICTURE MATCH GAME

Invite employees to try their luck matching baby and/or pet pictures to pictures of management. Award the entry with the most right answers a paid day off or some other fun incentive. Charge employees \$2.00 per ballot.

Spaghetti supper/variety show

Set up an Italian restaurant complete with candle light, using only card tables with checkered tablecloths. Near Valentine's Day is a good time to hold it. Offer free baby-sitting and the best show in town after dinner. Have work trip participants be waitresses and waiters. Then use their talents to do the show...singing, dancing, gymnastics, skits, audience participation...whatever! Everyone loves it. It not only opens the fund raising to those outside the congregation, but it also helps the work trip participants learn to work together.

Buy a mile

Show your fund-raising progress on a map with a little moving van to show how far you've gone. Figure out the total number of miles and divide that number into total budget to get cost per mile. Invite folks to buy a mile or two to get your group there . . . and back! They surely wouldn't want to leave you stranded in the middle of nowhere, would they? Or would they?

Sell "stock" in the trip

Sell shares to members and friends of the congregation for a set price. It's good to set the price fairly low--say \$5--so that anyone can afford to buy one share. Others may buy as many shares as they want. You may want to encourage "challenges" between Sunday school classes or individuals willing to purchase a large number of shares. A stock certificate can be drawn up to give to "investors." Be creative with publicity of the stock sale. . . do a skit at a church board meeting or a high-powered board meeting with a CEO and vice presidents with beepers and cell phones and slicked back hair. Once you've sold the stock, give special privileges to stock holders-like a free car wash when you have one. On your return, hold a shareholder luncheon complete with an "annual report" with pictures and stories written by participants. Obviously, people could come

whether they bought stock or not. Shareholders could come free and others could come for a fee to cover any extra costs that you didn't get covered before the trip!

During the trip, have someone in charge of recording highs and lows that might have affected the "stock" (i.e., "Stock soared when we first stopped the van for Cokes and candy, then tumbled when everyone wanted a pit stop, but discovered the next stop was 50 miles away"). Show slides. Do a skit where high-powered execs sit around a conference table and field reports from committees-the meal committee, the work committee, the stay-up-all-night committee, etc.

Be sure you have some way of allowing the work trip participants to give personal accounts of what the trip meant to them; what they learned and how they grew, spiritually and otherwise. A real advantage of this fund-raising "metaphor" is that the concepts of "appreciation" and "value" and "profit" can be played up in Christian terms. It worked for First Christian Church, Jacksonville, Miss., and could work for you! Special thanks to Eric Hughes for suggestions for this fund-raiser!

Parents' day out

Plan a Saturday for parents to do their shopping and drop their children off at the church. You can have movies, crafts, games, singing. Either set a price or ask for donations. This is a welcome "gift" for parents, it's fun for the kids and it helps raise money for your trip.

Rent a Flamingo:

Get 6 to 10 lawn Flamingo's, paint in your school colors or what seems best. Have a sign up or sale sheet and take requests to have some one receive a Flamingo in their yard for the day. You can charge \$10 - \$50 a day depending on the area, weekends would be premium time. Let's see- 6 Flamingo's X \$25 X 14 Days is \$2100.00, not bad. Note: You might want to tag your Flamingo's to identify or in case of flight. This sale doesn't have to be limited to just taking orders within the school. Teach kids to market this by contacting businesses, radio stations, and other groups. You can also paint them with VERY obnoxious colors and people will sign up their neighbors, teachers or anywhere but their own yard.

Doorway Sponsor

Contact area businesses to be sponsors of a classroom doorway. Set a dollar amount for sponsorship of \$50-\$200. Each sponsor will have their name across the doorway of the sponsored room and the walls decorated to depict that business. Use different colors of construction paper to simulate the company logo or color theme. The best time to do this is before and during student conferences to ensure the most exposure for the advertiser. You could even offer the sponsor to be added to the next month school newsletter as an added benefit and a way of thanking sponsors. Great way for students to learn about their neighborhood and to become familiar with it.

Sponsor a "Kayak Festival"

http://www.wilderness-outfitters.com/scout_fundraising.htm
Here is how it works:

Wilderness Outfitters will provide kayaks, paddles, personal flotation devices, and instructors at a lakefront area near your Scout group, on a weekend day. We will provide instructors to teach people about kayaking, and boats for people to paddle in the lake. We may also provide flyfishing instruction, and fly tying demonstrations.

The Scouts will sell tickets in, for \$5 or \$10 per ticket, and will distribute flyers advertising the event. Radio stations and newspapers may be willing to donate advertising coverage. Scouts may also wish to sell hotdogs and cold drinks.

All proceeds are kept by the Scouts. Spring is the best time for this event.

STOCKING STUFFERS

around the holidays we take orders to stuff stockings for people. we buy different candies, buying in bulk really saves on costs, small trinkets appropriate for either women or men. and fill the stockings for a fee. it is super for especially men who always forget to do stockings!!

Texas Rangers

We did a fundraiser last year where we worked at the Ballpark in Arlington during Texas Rangers home games (major league baseball for those that may not know). During the month of April we worked a 6 person booth. This did require a lot of work both on the leaders part and the kids and parents. But we made over \$5,000.00 in only 10 days work. Thankfully we had enough volunteers and youth that most only had to work a few games. Plus you get in free!!! I don't know if other professional sports teams offer these things, but definitely worth checking out.

Ha-Ha Box

Pass a box around at Meetings and collect money. Pick a member's name out of a hat. If the member is not present at Meetings, he gets a postcard that says "Ha-Ha, you weren't at meetings, so you owe the chapter a dollar. The money can go towards I\$F. If the member is present at Meetings, he gets half of the money collected and the other half goes toward I\$F.

Kidnap Breakfast

Publicize to your members that on a given date they will be kidnapped for breakfast. Enlist members willing to be hosts. Enlist people to be drivers. The driver appears at the door and says "Ready for breakfast?" If the guest goes dressed as he is, he only pays for the breakfast, but if the guest takes time to change and get ready, then that person is charged an additional fee plus the cost of breakfast.

Flag Subscription Service

This is an ongoing fundraiser. Basically, it is a service where your group installs a nice national flag in the front yard of the subscriber on each of five or more patriotic days. The

flags are put out early in the morning and retrieved in the evening. This is particularly appropriate for Scout groups.

After subscriptions are sold, purchase the flags, aluminum conduit (for poles) and PVC pipe. That way you only buy what materials you actually need, although you may wish to allow some extra for last minute subscribers. The PVC is cut to about 14 inches and put into the ground as a receptacle for the flag pole which is about 5 foot long. The PVC should be 'planted' ahead of time. Be sure to keep a record of specifically where it is located on each property. Make sure the pipe and PVC are a reasonably close fit to keep your flag upright. You can add a threaded end on top and cap the PVC when not in use to keep out dirt and rocks. But be sure the top is below 'lawn mover height' to avoid damage. Use a hack saw to cut the poles and PVC to the desired lengths. Drill holes in the pipe to attach the flag with picture hanging or other sturdy wire for long wear.

The subscription cost for 1 year is \$25-\$50. The first year, expect to clear about half of the proceeds after paying for the flags and accessories. Renew subscribers annually. Subsequent years are mostly profit - allowing for the replacement of damaged or worn flags and receptacles. Advertise in local neighborhood papers, "sell" door-to-door, or set up a booth outside the local grocery or at sports events. Confine your 'sales' to a geographic area that's doable for your group. Split the coverage area and assign 2-4 person teams to each. That way you can get finished quicker and provide back-up coverage when a team member is out of town. Be sure to leave a contact number with your subscribers so they can refer friends and neighbors who want to participate. This project can raise funds and make your participants and supporters feel good.

Town Calendar

To create your own town calendar, you need to sell advertising. Local merchants and supporters become the calendar's ad sponsors. Collect logos from local businesses and sell each business ad space on the calendar pages. You may want to limit ads to 3 or 4 per calendar page. Price ads reasonably at \$25 to \$35 dollars, depending on the size of the ad desired. Sell individual calendar dates (squares) to recognize individual birthdays, anniversaries or other special events for \$3 to \$5 each. This will create additional sales interest for those who want to see their "event" on the calendar.

Collect volunteer artwork to feature in the calendar (one piece per page or a collage on each calendar page). Photos of town landmarks or a collage of pictures from Founder's Day, Four of July or Christmas Parades, or other local events make good choices. Select a theme related to your school, town or organization to guide you in choosing the pictures or artwork. Work with a local printer to produce the calendars (they may do this at a reduced cost in return for an ad!)

Once printed up, sell the calendars for \$10-\$15 at sporting events, school functions, and door-to-door. Try to get local book stores and restaurants to display the calendars for sale. The amount of money you'll raise depends entirely on the sales effort of your volunteers. Many community members won't hesitate to support a good cause! Profits can be quite high, depending upon which services you can have donated in return for ads. Selling ad space is the hardest part. Be sure when selling the calendars to let people know how/where the proceeds will be spent.

Truck & Heavy Equipment Show

Looking for something different? Hold a Truck/Heavy Equipment Show. All you need is a large venue, preferably outdoors in a high traffic area, to bring in the drive-by crowds. You could raise a lot of money with this simple idea. Arrange for town workers and private citizens--everyone and anyone who drives or owns a large truck, tractor, earth mover etc. to park their vehicle in your field or parking lot on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. If you don't have a large enough venue, maybe a local mall will let you use a portion of their parking lot.

Rope off the area and charge admission. Kids of all ages love to see fire trucks, ambulances, dump trucks, and backhoes up close and personal. Some proud owners may polish up their vehicles for the occasion and be willing to stand by to answer the kids questions or even let them climb in or on the vehicle.

Approach city maintenance departments regarding the temporary loan of a garbage truck, snow plow, road paving equipment, etc. Ask local construction companies for a crane or cement mixer. Approach area farmers or farm equipment dealers for a tractor, combine or other equipment. You'll want to arrange for at least one eighteen wheeler, maybe even a moving van. Think delivery trucks, mail truck, UPS, FedEx. How about a Greyhound or other tourist bus? Is there a military installation or depot nearby? Ask the ROTC or National Guard to participate. You might even arrange for a helicopter. See how many different kinds of vehicles you can muster, the possibilities are endless!

Have a sandwich board by each vehicle, or a large sign or program passed out at the gate acknowledging the various donors and thanking them for their participation. You should also send an individual follow-up thank you to each with information on how much money you raised and how it will be used.

Besides the 'gate', you could sell refreshments and baked goods.

Post flyers and signboards around town and neighboring areas and send out news releases. Be sure to get your event included in the community bulletin boards or calendars of local newspapers and radio stations. If your charitable cause is unique or universal enough, you might even get a local radio to broadcast from your event.

Restaurant Takeover

Contact a local restaurant and volunteer to serve as dishwashers, bus persons, and buffet servers during the winter season, which is a slow time due to less tourists. Negotiate an amount the restaurant owner would donate for the volunteer services. Each volunteer youth had opportunity to work approximately 2 hours. In exchange for being allowed to work in the restaurant your group should promise to bring him additional patrons on the evenings you volunteer so the project will be mutually beneficial. Ask the owner to allow you to inform the general public of your volunteer status and set up a donation box by the cash register for additional contributions.

Balloon Release

A balloon release can be operated at a shopping mall or at an open air event like a school fair. The elements of the competition are a quantity of balloons of the appropriate quality, and a couple of cylinders of helium. The cylinders can be rented as can a small valve release unit; only the helium used is paid for.

Set a stall from which members of the public are invited to buy balloons in aid of your good cause. Each purchaser is given a card on which is printed the address of the group and a message to the finder, asking that the card be returned and promising a reward of "\$X" if the returned card is that of the winning balloon. The purchaser is asked to put his/her own name and address in the space providing for that info; the card is stamped, placed in a plastic sleeve for protection and attached to the balloon. When the balloon has been inflated, the purchaser releases the balloon him/her self; it should not be launched by a member of your group.

The card that is returned from the greatest distance away (within a specified time) is held to be that of the winning balloon. Decide what prize is to be offered and announce this at the time the balloons are sold. You need also announce a closing date. Cards arriving after that date are disqualified.

Pink Flamingo Sale

Purchase 10 pink plastic flamingos (lawn decorations). Pick 10 yards in your community to be the lucky recipients. Attach cards to the flamingoes' necks with a phone number along with all the pertinent information regarding your group. State that for \$10 donation, the flamingo will be moved to a yard of their choice. Make sure you also place a sign that has a contact name and phone number among the flamingos for those who drive by and would like to have the flamingos placed in a friends yard. (Also give the option to simply pick up the flamingo gratis, since some people have no sense of fun.) It takes some organization, but is lots of fun. You can also sell "Pink Flamingo Insurance" for \$10 to protect yourself from the invasion of these pink pests.

Pancake Breakfast

some companies will offer the equipment for free; others will give you the product necessary to make the pancakes. Hold first day of hunting season or cold winter day!

Valentine Flowers to Go

Sell 6 wrapped carnations placed atop a box of candy

Secret Balloon Sale

Put not of winnings inside each balloon. Participant pays for a try at "the big prize".

Letter from Santa

write letters from Santa to children of parents who give their name, including a special something in each one about that child's wishes

Breakfast with Santa

pancake breakfast for the children to see and eat with Santa

Take Home Meals

orders placed and customers pick up their dinners on the way home from work. Stay with an entree, bread, and dessert.

Picnic Basket Auction

put together the coolest looking picnic baskets and auction off to highest bidder

No-Bake, Bake Sale

Due to the restrictions of the Health Departments in many states, it is becoming increasingly difficult to hold a traditional bake sale. Why not try a "No-Bake, Bake Sale"! Assemble all of the non-perishable ingredients of a favorite cookie or cake recipe into a canning jar, add the recipe, decorate the jar, and voila, you have a great item to sell at local grocery stores, bazaars, craft sales etc. Sample recipes may be found at Gifts in a Jar.

Saving Pennies

Remind girls each week to bring in their leftover pennies from around the house. Have them ask mom and dad to help save the pennies. One troop reported earning \$200 in 5 meetings with 12 girls!

Craft Boutiques

This can be a troop event or an individual event. As a troop event, use troop meetings to make marketable crafts. Some good ideas are scrunchies, pot holders, Beadie Critters, and anything else that is popular with the crowd you will be selling to. You could even organize a Girl Scout Craft Boutique for other troops and advertise to the public. If family members have hidden talents (tole painting, stitching, etc.), an individual craft sale is great. Family members make the products and the girls sell them at an advertised craft boutique.

Troop Cookbook

If your troop does a lot of cooking and has favorite recipes, cookbooks are always in demand. Outdoor cookbooks sell well within the Girl Scout community. Collect the recipes, recruit someone to assemble and input them into the computer, print them out (or have them printed), have them bound, advertise and SELL! One example of a troop cookbook can be found at Outdoor Odyssey. Another can be found at Troop 669 on Cooking Chow.

Gift Wrapping

This is especially successful during the busy Christmas holiday season (from Thanksgiving

to Christmas). Many places will provide you with paper, tape, scissors, etc. and you supply the labor. Put a sign on a nicely decorated box or basket indicating who you are and what the donations will be used for. Make sure girls are well versed in how to wrap a package properly.

Program Events for Younger Girls

If your council allows this, this can be an excellent fund-raiser for older girls, especially if they have Program Aide training and are experienced at working with the younger girls. Events can range from Badge or Try-It workshops to camping events and more. Try to pick events that do not have a lot of expenses. Make sure that the fee you charge is reasonable and not overly expensive. You can visit my Troop site to find outlines of programs already developed. The Rescue 911 event was used as a fund-raiser in 1997 and was very successful.

Catering Council/Service Unit events

If your council holds events that serve food (such as Annual Meeting or any type of Awards Luncheon), check with them to see if you can cater that food. Remember that you need to abide by local Health Department regulations when preparing any food. Obtain donations from local merchants for the items needed to keep your costs down (remember that many councils require you to clear any sponsorship/donation requests with them first). Negotiate a price for the meal. Recruit parents to help in the food preparation and girls can help prepare and then serve the meal. Don't forget the clean-up!

Pizza Sale

Purchase pizza fixings at a local food distributor (or obtain donations if possible and if approved by your Council). Have girls take orders for different varieties of pizzas before hand. On the scheduled day, make the pizzas and have the girls deliver their orders.

Fire Wood Sales

If you live in a cold climate you maybe able to get wood donated from tree pruning businesses. You have the Scouts split and bundle the wood up and then sale it. For safety reasons, you are best having a professional with a log splitter to split the logs. Hen run a ad in the local paper, along with contact data. As sales come in one of the older Scouts can arrange for pick-up and delivery.

Jellybean count

Fill a jar with jellybeans and have people pay to guess how many there are in the jar.

Dress-down/civvies day

If you attend a school that requires a uniform, have a day in which all the students can wear casual clothes. Charge each student who wants to participate. Make certain that you ask permission of your principal first.

Band and choir concerts

Ask your school band or choir to donate their time by performing a benefit concert for your cause. Charge admission for the event.

Bag groceries

Ask a local grocery store if you can bag people's groceries for donations. Be certain to put up a sign saying what the donation is for.

Skip-a-thon

Choose a date, make up pledge forms, and advertise with posters. Have everyone who wants to participate gather donations or pledges using their pledge forms, then skip.

Auction

Have individuals, groups and businesses donate goods and services. Be creative in what you can auction off and make certain that the goods and services are sold at reasonable prices.

Perform a free service for donations: Rake leaves, shovel snow, take care of a pet. When offering your service, ask the person who benefited from your actions for a donation toward your worthy cause.

Sell candy or cards

Work with reputable businesses that provide merchandise you can sell. Be sure at least half of the money raised goes to your cause.

Winter carnival

Hold a winter carnival in your local park or schoolyard. Invite students, staff, and the community. Charge admission and/or a small fee to play games.

Carnival day

Host a mini-carnival, with games, prizes and popcorn, in a local park or your own backyard. Charge admission and/or a small fee to play games.

Spelling bee

Look through some books or in the dictionary and come up with a list of words of increasing difficulty. Have participants and spectators pay to participate.

Battle of the bands

Gather some bands from your local community. Book a venue and advertise with posters, flyers, and radio announcements. Hold a mini-concert in which the audience chooses the winning band.

Pitch-a-thon

Rent a radar gun and measure how fast people can throw a baseball or kick a soccer ball. Charge \$1 per try and give a prize to the fastest individual.

Sell buttons or t-shirts displaying your logo

Create a logo, and then make up a whole bunch of t-shirts, buttons, pens, or other gifts with your logo on them. Sell the items at a reasonable price.

Puppet show

Make puppets with socks, felt and other craft materials. Pick out or write a story. Set a date, time, and location. Advertise with flyers and posters. Sell tickets in advance and at the door.

Spaghetti dinner

Prepare a great dinner for students, teachers, or community members and charge a fee.

Hold a theme party

Decide on a fun theme. Charge an entrance fee, but be sure to explain to people what their cover charge is going towards.

Newsletter

Create a newsletter informing your peers and members of your community about your organization or cause. Sell the newsletter for a small fee. Be sure to provide information about how people can become involved and/or donate to your cause.

Plant a tree

ask a nursery for seedling donations and then get people to sponsor a tree.

Pledges

Gather pledges to have dance-a-thons, rock-a-thons, or any other type of endurance contest you can think of.

Day of community service

Gather together a group of friends, and contact a number of organizations for which you would be interested in volunteering. Then have people sponsor you to do community service for 24 hours.

Food fast

Get together with a group of friends, gather pledges, and fast for a full 24 hours.

Piñata contest

Charge a fee to have each blindfolded person have one turn at trying to break a candy-filled piñata.

Craft sale

Make all the crafts yourself and sell them.

Geography bee

Organize a spelling bee composed of geographical names from around the world. Participants should obtain sponsors for their correct answers.

Family barbecue

Host a family barbecue in your backyard, with games and activities.

Three-on-three basketball tournament

Organize a basketball tournament in your school with the winning team receiving a prize. This can also be done with soccer, tennis, badminton, or any other sport.

Swim-a-thon

Get sponsors for the number of laps you swim.

Beat the goalie

Pick the best hockey or soccer goalie you know and invite people to try to score a goal for a prize. Every participant has to pay to play.

Bingo

Host a bingo night at a local hall, place of worship, or school.

Plant sale

Organize a plant sale with plants donated by local nurseries.

Games night

Organize an evening of board games.

Boat race

Organize a model boat race on a body of water. Charge a participant/spectator entrance fee. The winner of the race gets a prize.

Fruit stand

Get permission to go to local farms and pick fruit to sell. Sell the produce in high-traffic areas or at community festivals.

Book sale

ask all your friends, relatives, and teachers to donate their old books. Advertise your book sale by means of posters and flyers. Set up a table and sell books. If there are leftovers, you can always give them to a needy library, shelter, or school.

Bowling

Organize a bowling night or a competition. Charge everyone a small fee to enter or have participants get bowl-a-thon pledges.

Buy a brick

If you are fundraising to build a school or building, have people make donations to purchase bricks.

Coupon sale

Have coupon books donated by local businesses, and then sell them to students and adults.

International dinner

Have people from various ethnic origins cook traditional foods, and then charge admission to an international dinner.

Balloon pop

Before filling a balloon with air or helium, put a note inside. Have a certain number of the notes worth a prize. Have people buy balloons and pop them in the hope of getting the prize. Be sure to pick up the broken balloons afterwards.

Scavenger hunt

Set a route and make a list of items that the participants need to find in order to win. Advertise your scavenger hunt well and charge everyone a small fee to participate. The winning person/group gets a prize.

Carol-singing

During the Christmas season, go door-to-door singing carols for donations. It is a good idea to have a card or a flyer with some brief information about your organization to give to sponsors. You may want to have an adult accompany you. Remember to respect those who do not celebrate Christmas and who may not want to hear your carols.

Candle making

Make candles and sell them to family members. This can be educational and fun, but be sure to exercise all safety precautions.

Hug-a-gram

Advertise a hug for a dollar. Have people buy a hug for a friend. After a member of your group gives the hug to the designated person, give them a small card with a message from the person who sent the hug.

Sporting events tickets

Ask sports teams to donate a number of seats for their games and raffle off the tickets.

Charity ball

Hire a DJ or a band, rent a hall, advertise, and sell tickets for a dance.

Christmas ornament sale

Sell Christmas ornaments during the Christmas season.

Classic car show

Organize a classic automobile show. Invite people to attend and to bring their cars by placing ads in local newspapers, leaving flyers at local businesses, and charging people to come and see the show.

Miniature golf

Build a nine-hole miniature golf course at your school, featuring ramps, water and sand traps, and other obstacles. Charge people to play a round during lunch.

Bench-a-thon

Have people bench press weights in the school gym and collect pledges for every kilogram they lift. This is a popular event, especially with football players. Make sure all participants have spotters to ensure safety.

Clearing snow

Shovel snow from people's driveways and walkways in the winter months for a donation.

Monopoly match

Have a group of students play a Monopoly tournament with the winner receiving a prize.

Guess the age

Students pay to guess the your age

Hoopla

The competitor throws hoops over prizes. The person whose hoop completely lands over the prize gets to keep the award. Make sure you do not spend too much money on prizes.

Pumpkin-decorating contest

Around Halloween, hold a pumpkin-decorating contest among different grades of homerooms.

Debate evening

Research a number of debate issues and invite various community members to debate issues. Charge the audience to come and watch. The issues can be fun. For example, have your school principal argue that listening to music during class enhances a student's ability to learn versus a student who thinks that music should be banned from school.

Dog show

Invite people to show off their dogs in a show. Make it a competition that people pay to enter, and offer a prize for the best groomed dog, most- and least-obedient dog, and so on.

Talent auction

Auction off the talents of people. For instance, great singers offer to sing at a wedding, party, or special event.

Duck race

Sell numbered plastic ducks. Set all the ducks afloat in a race on a river. The person who bought the duck that wins the race gets a prize.

Guess the number of coins in a jar

The winner receives all the coins and your group makes money by charging people for guessing.

Comedy hour

Host a comedy skit during lunch at your school and charge people to attend.

Nacho party

Plan a morning to make nachos and popcorn, which can be sold during lunch.

Eating marathon

Have a pie eating, hot-dog eating, or ice cream-eating contest. You can charge people to participate or to watch, or you can make all participants obtain pledges.

Face painting

Have a face-painting day. Advertise in advance and then charge a small fee for painting young kids' faces during a school day or on a weekend.

Ugly tie contest

Have the students come to school wearing the ugliest tie they can find. Have them vote on the worst tie with the winner receiving a prize.

Flower show

Invite gardeners from your community to enter their flowers in a competition for a prize. Ask volunteer experts to be judges and charge all participants and spectators a fee.

Calendar sale

Create a calendar highlighting the projects and members of your organization, and sell it to students and their family members.

Sports tournament/fitness competition

Organize a sports tournament or fitness competition. Advertise well and charge spectators to come and watch groups compete. You may need to have medical personnel on hand.

Crazy hat day

Have students pay a fee to wear a crazy hat to school for the day.

“Get-out-of-jail-free” card

Pay to get out of a class period for a day. Ask permission from your teachers or principal first.

Art sale

Have local artists donate some of their works, which will be displayed and then sold to the public.

Game show

Recreate one or more of your favorite game shows and charge contestants a small entrance fee. Sell tickets to the audience.

Gardening

Tend the garden of a neighbour, a local store, or community park for a donation.

Guest speaker

Invite a guest speaker to your home or local hall and sell admission tickets to raise funds for your cause.

Karaoke

Rent a karaoke machine, sell tickets or charge an admission fee, and sing all night.

Videos

Make and sell a video for youth tourists of places to go and cool things to do. Or create a How-To video; for example, how to improve your golf swing, or how to make crafts.

Kilometre of coin

Gather donations of coins (pennies, dimes, or quarters) and lay them side-by-side until they stretch out to be a kilometer long. Alternatively, surround your gym, library, or parking lot with the coins.

Recipe book

Gather together favourite recipes and put them together in a book. Sell the book through your school, sports organization, or community centre. Try to get the photocopying donated by local businesses.

Sit in a bath

Obtain sponsorship for kids to sit in a bath of something gross and out of the ordinary, such as baked beans or fruit-flavoured gelatin.

Talent show competition

Invite people to show off their talent in a competition in which they can win a prize. Sell tickets in advance.

Henna hand art

Find out if any members of your group know how to apply henna (Indian hand art), which can be applied to people in your school for a fee.

Walk dogs

Love pets? Try walking dogs every day for a fee.

Toy sale

Hold a toy sale. The best season for this is just prior to Christmas.

Triathlon

Set a course of running, cycling, and swimming. Have participants get pledges to compete to win prizes.

Lemonade stand

Make lemonade, post signs, and sell it on a hot day.

Monthly Ideas

January Snow art contest.

February Valentine's Day dance; red carnations for Valentine's Day.

March St. Patrick's Day party; spring car wash.

April Spring flower sale.

May Mother's Day flowers sale.

June Father's Day sale; end-of-school pool party (with lifeguards).

July Canada Day festivities with refreshment/food booths.

August End-of-summer party.

September Back-to-school dance; back-to-school supplies sale.

October Halloween party; pumpkin sales; Thanksgiving turkey raffle.

November Remembrance Day donations.

December Christmas tree sale; gift-wrapping service; New Year's Eve

About InsaneScouter

In late 1998, *InsaneScouter* was founded to supply Scouts and Scouters with a vast amount of resources. Over the years the mission of *InsaneScouter* has changed but the underlying principles have not. In March 2002, *InsaneScouter* became a company, with a much larger web site and a complete mission.

Our mission is to provide as many resources to Scouts, Scouters and the general public relating to or in order to help the Scouting program and its youth over all. Additionally we will strive to provide great educational opportunities for Scouts relating to advancement, as well as Adult Leaders relating to overall aspects of there role in Scouting and working with youth.

Futhermore, at *InsaneScouter* we hope to achieve the goals we've set for ourselves to promote Scouting and its values. In time, we hope to involve the community in our mission to educate our children about Scouting and how fun it really is. Scouting is a fun and unique way to teach children about independence, character development and citizenship training. Also, participating as a group in fun activities and making new friends. Indeed, this is a fun and safe way for your children to spend a couple afternoons a week after school. These tools can enhance your child's knowledge of nature, camping, and science. As well as a variety of other activities.

With the greater complexity of *InsaneScouter*, one person could no longer operate the web site and be able to handle all the responsibilities that come with that that alone. Thus in mid 2001 additional members joined in helping "*Youth One Click at a Time*".



<http://insanescouter.org>