

Ideas on Fundraising from one DiscoveryBound Teen!

How does one person raise a thousand dollars?

For a minimum wage of \$6.55 an hour for the USA, it would take 152 hours of work before taxes to earn one thousand dollars. But if there were ways we could raise three to five hundred dollars at once, that thousand dollars doesn't seem so big after all!

As an example, I can make people pay \$20 for a slice of cake that would usually go for 3 dollars. Get someone to donate the cake, like the little old ladies in church who have their special recipes. With a little convincing, they would love to donate a sample of their prized recipe to you. It is easier to have people donate items than money. Now you need to assign a high value to each slice. To make each slice seem really special, you have to add some entertainment. Make it seem like an event to eat a slice of cake! Give the cake consumer a nice table cloth and a chair to sit on while they listen to some live music or watch an interesting presentation. Local musicians are willing to play for free for a good cause and for PR. All this takes is organization! How are you supposed to organize this? Network through the church, your neighborhood, and your friends. Call your friends parents and your parents friends to come. Have people prepay for tickets, that way if they don't show, you still have their money! (No refunds.) If there is limited seating, you are making each seat a scarce commodity which can raise the value. Having a fixed seat number also allows you to know how many plates, etc. you need. By planning this around Valentine's Day, you can get a premium for the event. Don't bill it like eating a slice of cake, bill it as a romantic or fun evening out at a Dessert Concert! Plan to serve at least 25-30 people and charge \$20 per person. You have then made at least \$500!

Some of the things that make this so profitable are:

- Service lots of people at one time
- Get people to donate things that are easier to donate than money
- Leverage donations to turn a small donation into more (cake and music into event)
- Ask your friends to help! Especially when you need more man power
- Make all of your ideas and advertizing (promotional materials) available to the rest of the NLC group to be reused
 - For easy to do ideas, pack up the necessities and directions into an envelope and mail it to other members so they can do the same fundraiser in their own town. This is like a quick start packet, and would be great for an international tea tasting afternoon.
 - Find your target audience (what does a certain group of people rarely get to do?) Meet a need!
 - Older people like to get out of the house and be social.
 - Parents love events they can go to together.

Some other examples that follow the same principles are:

- Baby sitting too slow? Why not baby sit 20 kids at once?

Kids Night OUT is a safe party for kids one evening so that parents can have a date night. You can have some of your friends come and baby sit with you from five to nine PM. Kids will have fun with a good dinner, games, and a movie at the party! Ask the same people at your church to come cook and donate spaghetti. Charge 25 dollars per child, which totals 500 dollars.

- **Chili Cook Off!!** Have 12 chefs donate their prized chili to the competition and the people that attend to cast their vote and eat dinner are charged \$10. With 50 people, about 12 families of 4, you have earned \$500. Buy drinks and prizes for \$75 and you still have a profit of \$425.
- Set up a **5K run/bike race!** Charge an entry fee to make profit. Have local sponsors for production and advertisement fees. A local radio station would most likely endorse it for free and local businesses could sponsor drinks, like fifty dollars worth of Costco water bottles, and in return you would post their company sign which they would give you. This is a particularly good idea if you are involved in track. If you charge \$35 and have 20 people participate, you have \$700 bucks!

- **Garage sale.** You can get a lot of people to come if you make it multifamily- like a garage sale conglomerate for one stop shopping! Get people to donate higher value items, so you are making \$100 off of one thing. With the stuff that is left, give it back to the people who donated it so you don't have dump fees. If it is good enough quality, you could donate it to charity yourself with pickup truck owning volunteers.
- **Community Easter Egg Hunt!** Have a local elementary school or Sunday school? Why not charge people to participate, use a park, and hide tons of eggs and get a bouncy house donated for the day? Make it an event! You could get all supplies donated and parks/private residential homes are free. \$20 admittance, 20 kids, \$400!
- **Tea Sampler.** Taste tea and cookies and learn about the tea you are drinking. A power point would be really nice with information about the tea. You could have tea from all over the world and educate people about the tea process and make them tea connoisseurs for a day. Chinese teas are in grocery stores and China Town. Chinese, Indian, Sri Lankan, Japanese, and Thai teas—the possibilities are endless!
- **Garbage-a-thon!!!** Gather pledges for how much trash you can pick up within a specific park or landmark. For instance, in the winter the American river is drained and all the trash people throw over board is exposed. Get 10 people to sponsor you at five cents a can each and now each can you pick up is worth 50 cents! Tell them where the garbage is and why it is important to clean up. You might have to provide a max amount sponsors will have to pay, so that they aren't scared they will owe too much. Have some friends come and help you!
- **Cooking Class.** Convince a chef to donate a cooking class! People can pay admittance and come learn to cook a specialty, like tamales or crepes, and taste test it. Charge 15 to 20 dollars a person. They would enjoy the community experience and the dinner.
- **Art Class.** Convince an artist to donate an evening class! Charge people to sign up. They will have fun and learn something new!

Other ideas include products and services that you could sell.

There are a few things that people really hate to do, and when they hate it so much or don't have enough time to get to it, the value of the task increases.

Principles: Keep it quick and simple and make sure that the consumer does as little as possible

- Offer to **Craig's List/E-bay** peoples "valuables" for them! Make a deal to take A LOT of the cut! People would be more than willing to get rid of their stuff and receive 10%-20% of the selling price.
- **SCRIP**-these are grocery store cards that you can give to people. Whenever a family shops for food, you get money from it! They are not charged extra, but the grocery store is! Over a long period of time, a few hundred of dollars can be made. (Even if it's just your family.)
- Ask your **family members** for donations towards your NLC service trip for birthdays and holidays!
- **School fundraisers:** which ones do you enjoy the most? Use the same idea for your fundraiser.
- **Art Auction:** have the art classes at school donate art, display it all, invite the parents and community to the auction, and make them bid and pay for their child's work! I did this in 7th grade and one of my pieces went for \$400, and I made a total of \$900 all in one night for having fun painting and drawing. All the money was donated to Heifer International.
- **Tutoring!** Have a brain and or reflect infinite intelligence? Put it to use! Share the power of intelligence!! Just a couple hours a week...even at lunch at school.
- **Garage organizing service.** Charge 200-250\$ (+ dumping fee) depending on how messy it is. Clean it up, take the junk away to the dump. Your friends can help.
- **Closet, Basement, Refrigerator Cleaning!** People would pay \$250 (+dump fees) for just one afternoon for 5 hours of labor to have their area of choice cleaned out and the trash removed!! Five hours can make a big difference, and it would be easy to employ a friend or two for \$20 to help. It is always more fun to rearrange and clean up other people's stuff than yours.

Show and Tell!

While on a DiscoveryBound trip, find some food that we are allowed to bring home (like tea) and talk about the trip. (Food is a good idea for this, because then people feel more like they are there and can relate better to what you are talking about.) accompany the treat with a slide show and tell some stories from the trip! Charge people to come before you go on the trip, and host the event after you get back.

Most of these fundraising ideas are not just good for fundraising money, but also allow you to improve your leadership and organizational skills which is one of the purposes of the group. By putting on two or three events, each individual can raise 1000 dollars. These should give you some ideas for what you are excited about and what you can do.

I hope that these ideas are implemented or inspire you so that everyone can experience some financial freedom!