

Fundraising Packet

The first challenge you must overcome for your Adventure Challenge is fundraising. We realize that raising \$2,300 – \$7,000 is no easy feat, but you will have the continuing support of both the Adventure Challenge and Flying Kites staff in your efforts to raise this money.

Before considering any type of fundraising project, you should familiarize yourself with the history and progress of Flying Kites. We have included our press kit, which covers all the essentials about Flying Kites, more information can be found on our website and in our annual reports. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask us. This packet should help you invent and plan your perfect fundraiser.

What you might need from us:

Flying Kite's Federal 501(c)3 Number : 20-5946832

Flying Kites is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization. If you ask businesses or individuals to donate or discount products for your use, they may ask to see for our tax ID number (listed above). Remember to clarify that Adventure Challenges is a program within Flying Kites to avoid any confusion.

Sponsorship request letter template

One of the most effective fundraising methods is asking family and friends to sponsor your Adventure Challenge. We have provided a template letter to get you started.

Item donation request

Many fundraising events feature a raffle, silent auction, or door prizes to encourage people to donate money or attend the event. This template letter can be sent to local businesses asking for item donations.

Please keep detailed records of who donates to your challenge. Checks should be made payable to Flying Kites. Please change cash into money orders or cashier's checks.

100 Fundraising Ideas

NOTE: **If you choose to host a 21 and over event, be sure to check with local liquor laws and have a system to check that everyone who attends is 21 or over.

1. Cover for a Cause – Ask local bars to donate a night's cover charges to your fundraising mission. Hold it over a month at a number of different bars or at your favorite bar for one night. Include raffles or other contests. See Flying Kites for a kit on planning a cover for a cause event.
2. Beer Pong Tournament – Organize a beer pong tournament at a local bar or other venue. Offer prizes donated by a local business. Charge contestants to enter.
3. Casino Night – Organize a casino night with or without alcohol. Charge people a flat rate to participate and give them play money to bet with. Remember gambling is illegal in most states, so any betting must be done with fake money. Charge something like \$50 and give participants 100 chips. Do not allow participants to “purchase” more chips. Check state/local laws to be sure there are not technicalities that would classify your fake money event as gambling.
4. Drinking Games – Host an event featuring one or more of your favorite drinking games. Host at your local bar, frat house, or other venue. Avoid encouraging binge drinking by choosing games that are focused more on the game than on consuming alcohol. Jenga, Twister and other childhood games can be fun party games.
5. Party – Host your typical college party. Get a keg and charge for cups. Carry around a collection jar to ask for small donations.
6. Wine Tasting – Host a wine tasting. Ask local vineyards or liquor stores to donate wine.
7. Cocktail Party – Host a classier party with family and friends.

Ideas Involving Family and Friends

8. Air Miles – Ask family and friends to donate sky miles. These can be used as prizes at events.
9. Christmas Tree Pick-up – Offer to pick up Christmas trees after the holidays and deliver them to the dump. Charge people for each tree picked up. This is a good one if you have a truck and a helper– Christmas trees are a pain to move and most people are thrilled to check off another holiday “to-do.”
10. Garage Sale – Ask family, friends, and the local community to donate items to be sold in a garage sale.
11. Kids' Classes/tutoring – Have a special skill? Offer children in your community classes. Guitar lessons, math tutoring, etc. Or, organize sports competitions at local elementary or middle schools: kick-ball tournaments

etc. Charge parents to let their children participate. Don't forget waivers! Ask Flying Kites for waiver templates.

12. Letter Writing – Write you relatives and friends asking them to support your fundraising efforts. Usually personal connections are the best way to raise money.
13. Party – Ask someone to host or use your family home to throw a fundraising party. Invite your friends and family who are your best supporters. Show the Flying Kites documentary “Chasing Childhood” and explain why you are participating in Adventure Challenge.
14. Pink Flamingo – The idea of this fundraiser is to station either a flock of flamingos, or for something less intrusive, a single flamingo in a business or private residence's yard. Attach a note explaining your cause and that in order to move the flock/flamingo, the victim must pay \$10. The first victim gets to decide who gets “flamingoed” next. This might work better in a family neighborhood than in a college area.
15. Scrapbooking Workshop – Get your friends together for the modern version of the quilting club. Buy scrapbooking supplies and charge family and friends to participate. Ask participants to bring photos to make one scrapbook page. Although you may not make a lot of money from the workshop itself, this gives you an opportunity to chat with potential donors in an intimate setting.

Fundraising Fun and Games

Charge entrance fees and award prizes for contests, games and races. Ask local businesses to donate the prizes. You can also structure games and races so the participants obtain sponsors who will pledge money to the participant for his or her participation or victory.

16. Aerobathon – Organize an aerobathon with local gyms and sports shops. Competitors can compete for treadmill endurance, best weightlifter, most pull-ups, and more.
17. Arrest a Fan – (Better for smaller schools or gatherings where you know most of the students) Before a big football or other sporting event, sell “Arrest Warrants.” Students write their name and the name of a student they would like to have “arrested.” Volunteer uniformed police officers then arrest the student at the game, placing them in a designated area in view of the bleachers. Students have to sit for 20 minutes or pay \$3 to get out. For an additional \$2 students can have their arrestor arrested or arrest someone else.
18. Bracelet Sales – Make your own or check out the numerous sites offering custom Livestrong-style silicon bracelets.
19. Bowling – Ask your local lanes to help you organize a night of bowling.

20. Chariot Race – Teams race homemade “chariots.” Ask a local grocery store if they will let you borrow carts and allow teams to decorate them. Ask that all participants sign a waiver in case of injury.
21. Capture the Flag – Organize a huge capture the flag game.
22. Dance Marathon – See who can dance the longest.
23. Duck Races – Let people “adopt” rubber duckies for \$5–\$10; each duck has a number painted on the bottom. Dump the bag full of rubber ducks into a pond or other body of water. Whatever duck floats to the other side first wins a prize donated by local businesses.
24. Football/Soccer/Softball Tournament – Ask to borrow a field in your community and organize teams. Powderpuff (with all girls) football is also popular in many towns.
25. Golf Tournament – Organize a charity golf tournament, or a mini-golf tournament.
26. Iron Chef – Host an iron chef tournament. Have contestants bring in dishes potluck style. Charge people to taste and vote on the best dish. You can consider charging entrants as well. Offer awards like gift certificates to local restaurants.
27. Jailbreak – Drop teams in the middle of nowhere with no maps or money. Let them keep their phones in case they get really lost. See who gets back first.
28. Jingle Bell Run – Host a running competition and insist that everyone attach jingle bells to their tennis shoes.
29. Matchbox Race – Sell small boxes to individuals. Each person creates a car from his/her box. Make a ramp to push cars down and have a race to see whose is fastest.
30. Paint-balling/Laser-tag – Convince a paint-balling center to donate a day to you.
31. Paper Airplanes – This is a good half-time event. Sell a sheet of paper for \$1–\$5 for participants to make a paper airplane. At half time contestants try to get as close to a “bulls eye” (mark on a gym floor or use a bucket) as possible.
32. Rock-off – Use the popular video game Rockband to host a tournament.
33. Sandcastle contest – This also works for snow sculptures; make a theme and encourage anyone to participate.
34. School Sports – See if you can get a school to donate part of the proceeds from a game to your cause.
35. Video Game Tournament – Who said you had to leave your couch to do a fundraiser? Find a venue with a big TV and video game consoles to host the tournament.

Crafts and Sales

36. Advertising booklet – Make a tourist guide about your community. Charge businesses to advertise in the booklet. Distribute the booklet at grocery stores, cafes, shops and other tourist-friendly places.
37. Bake Sale – Maybe mom will help?
38. Best Seat in the House – Find an old but nice looking couch (think Craigslist free section) and raffle off the “best seat in the house.” Talk to school administrators about placing the couch in a prime viewing location for the next football game. Winner of the raffle will get to sit on the couch with his or her friends. Deliver food halfway through the game. If you got the couch for free, let the winner keep it.
39. Calendars – Make calendars with pictures of Flying Kites kids, (ask the Adventure Challenge Program Manager for photos) sites around your community, or other interesting photos. Alternatively, ask people to submit artwork and photos for a truly unique calendar.
40. Candles – Make or buy candles in bulk and sell them. For fancy candles, buy teacups from thrift stores (each teacup is about \$0.70) and make candles inside them. See online guides for making candles.
41. Changing the Present – Check out www.changingthepresent.org. Start a campaign around the holidays to get family and friends to give a different kind of gift: a charitable donation in the recipient’s name to Flying Kites. Be sure to write down the names of everyone who agrees to buy a present so we can give you credit as the salesman/woman! Alternatively, ask your relatives to make a donation to Flying Kites instead of the pair of socks you usually get from them. Use changingthepresent.org or Flyingkitesglobal.org to make donations!
42. Collecting Tins – A tried and true fundraising method! Ask for donations in crowded pedestrian areas.
43. Doughnut Sale – Buy several boxes of doughnuts and sell them on campus for a small mark-up. Alternatively, you can easily make your own doughnuts/fried dough if you or someone you know has a deep fryer (FryDaddys from Presto sell for about \$25). Just look up a dough recipe, drop in the fryer, and sprinkle with powdered sugar. The advantage of making your own is that doughnuts will be fresh, extra delicious, and they are extremely cheap to make!
44. Ebay – Even though using Ebay may seem simple to you, many people are not familiar with using the site. Offer to sell people’s old stuff in return for a commission. Many people may just donate their old items to the cause.
45. Facebook – Use the all-powerful Facebook to raise money. Create your own cause (causes let you accept donations via Facebook) or use the Adventure Challenge profile page. Facebook can also be utilized in many other ways. Ask the Adventure Challenge Program Manager for more ideas.

46. Farmers Market – If you live near a lot of farms, ask local farmers or gardeners to donate produce. Host your own farmer’s market!
47. Food Sales – sell refreshments at a football game or other sporting event.
48. Flower Pens – For the girly girls out there. Buy a bunch of cheap pens, fake flowers, and florist tape. Wrap the tape tightly around the stem of the flower and the pen. You’ll end up with a beautiful and unique pen! Sell them with a note explaining your cause.
49. Greeting Cards – Make and sell greeting cards around the holidays. Design them yourself, or ask to use Flying Kites Kids’ artwork.
50. Hot Chocolate/Coffee – Sell for \$1 during the very cold months. Try a good old-fashioned lemonade stand in the summer.
51. Mom-O-Gram – Take orders to deliver corsages, roses or a small bouquet of flowers to moms on Mother’s Day, Valentine’s Day etc.
52. Ornament Sale – Make ornaments to sell around Christmas time. Check online for ornament ideas.
53. Pancake Breakfast – Organize a pancake breakfast. Charge people for all the pancakes they can eat. Send out invitations or sell tickets in advance to ensure people remember to wake up.
54. Promotional Gifts – Add these to any event! T-shirts, beer cozies, pens, magnets, water bottles, and more can all be customized with the Flying Kites logo.
55. Pumpkin Fundraiser – See if a local pumpkin patch will help you. You can sell plain pumpkins or host a pumpkin-carving event. If participants don’t want to keep carved pumpkins, donate them to a local rest home, school, or other venue that might appreciate them.
56. Spaghetti Dinner – Host a spaghetti dinner. Charge an entrance fee. Include other fun stuff like an auction or movie viewing.
57. Spring Flowers – Buy several bouquets of flowers and sell them by the stem for \$1.
58. Studio Portraits – See if you can recruit photographers, charge people to shoot their family photos or other studio shots. Get volunteers to do make-up. You can also add this to dance/cocktail party/costume party fundraisers.
59. Valentines – Make valentines or sell roses. For an extra twist, offer to deliver the valentines so that people can send them from “a secret admirer.” See if a local florist will discount roses.
60. Yard Cleanup– Charge to tidy up people’s yards or community spaces.

Generic fundraising ideas

61. Auction – Auction off items and services donated by the community. Silent auctions are easy to organize and are usually very successful in raising money. This is an easy addition to any fundraising event.

62. Art Exhibit/Contest – Ask local artists to display their work. Charge entry fees and admission.
63. Balloon Bust – Fill balloons with helium and slips of paper. Most slips will say “thank you try again” but some will have prizes written on them. Fill a room with the balloons and allow participants to select a balloon to pop for a \$1–\$5 donation. Make them remove the balloon from the room and pop it in front of someone helping with the event to ensure that no one cheats. Hold the event at a dinner or lunch and have another contest allowing guests to guess how many balloons are in the room. After the meal, let the popping begin!
64. Barbecue – Host a barbecue and charge for food or drinks. Try to get refreshments and food donated by local grocers.
65. Battle of the Bands – Organize a competition for local bands; the audience will select the best band. Charge bands to enter and sell tickets. Try to coordinate with a local bar to get liquor sales donated or to utilize as a venue. Get a local business to donate a grand prize.
66. Bonfire – Check local restrictions on fires. If you can find a proper venue, host a bonfire. Sell s’mores materials and hot dogs to roast over the fire.
67. Bring Your Dog to Work Day – Talk to companies with a large staff. Ask if they would host a “bring your dog to work day.” Employees sign up in advance and pay \$10 for each dog.
68. Carole Concert – Organize Christmas caroling. Sell cider and baked goods.
69. Car Smash – A traditional pep rally fundraiser. Get a car from a local junkyard and allow people to take a swing at it with a bat for a \$1–\$5 donation.
70. Carwash – see if your friends will help
71. Christmas in July or Beach party in December – Host a white elephant (everyone brings a silly wrapped gift and exchanges) for Christmas or invite everyone to wear swimwear to the beach party. Don’t forget to turn up the heat!
72. Costume Party – Offer a prize for the best costume. Charge admission.
73. Dance – Organize a dance in a school auditorium or another venue. See if a DJ or local band will donate a night’s performance. Charge for tickets.
74. Documentary – Show Flying Kites’ documentary “Chasing Childhood” at a local theater. Charge admission and host a VIP reception after the event to solicit donations. Ask a local business to donate wine and cheese.
75. Easter Egg Hunt – Organize an Easter egg hunt for local kids; charge parents for kids to join the hunt. Ask community members to donate dyed eggs or plastic eggs with candy in them. Or, organize a “grown-up” Easter egg hunt: use plastic eggs and include gift certificates to local shops/ restaurants along with silly gag toys. Have a golden egg for the grand prize.
76. Equipment Swap – Arrange a ski swap in the fall or a summer equipment swap in the spring. People bring things to sell, you collect a 25% commission

on every item sold. Also charge a \$3 admission fee. This is a great way for locals to get discounted equipment.

77. Hold a football, basketball, or softball game. Charge admission for the games and sell refreshments.
78. Fashion Show – Organize a fashion show for local designers, or design students. Use friends for models. Charge people to attend the show. Auction off fashions displayed or ask for a percentage of sales for clothing sold.
79. Film Festival – Hold a film festival asking for submissions from students. Have audiences vote on the best comedy, drama, etc. Charge admission and a small entry fee. Have local businesses donate prizes. Arrange a larger viewing for “Best Picture” to reward the best film.
80. Film Screening – Host a film screening for old movies, perhaps a double feature. Sell tickets and popcorn.
81. Garden Party – Charge for tickets. Offer tea and pastries.
82. Day with the Girls– Sell tickets for a day of girly activities. Talk to a local salon, boutique and lunch spot. Ask them to offer discounts to those who choose to participate. Donors can visit the three locations on the specified day to receive discounts or free goodies.
83. Grocery Store Donations – Ask a local grocer or drug store to collect donations (\$1–\$5) at checkout for Flying Kites. Each donor receives a paper kite to write his or her name on and hang in the store window.
84. Karaoke – Organize your own American Idol contest.
85. Masquerade Ball – Host a masquerade ball. Ask that everyone wear masks and have a grand unmasking at midnight. Charge for entrance and feature a silent auction.
86. Middle School Dance Party – Host a throwback party complete with all of those terrible middle school era boy bands and awkward dance pictures. Charge admission and charge for photos. Set up a cheesy backdrop and use a Polaroid for photos.
87. Money Tree – Create a cardboard tree. Staple identical envelopes to the tree. Get gift certificate donations from local businesses and place these in some of the envelopes. Leave some envelopes empty, or filled only with a “try again” note. Charge people \$1–\$3 to select an envelope from the tree.
88. Mr. Potatohead – Sell potatoes for a dollar and provide craft supplies. See who can make the best Mr. Potatohead. Winners get a prize donated by a local business. While contestants are decorating enjoy a baked potato bar with all the fixins.
89. Piñata – Have a grown up piñata. Have the traditional candy along with plastic eggs filled with gift certificates and more. Try to have three or more piñatas to attract more attention. Charge \$1–\$5 for people to take a swing.
90. Promise – Agree to shave your eyebrows or head if people help you raise a certain amount of money.

91. Rent-a-Puppy – contact your local Humane society to see if they would be willing to collaborate. People rent puppies for \$5 for 15 minutes of playtime. Keep puppies in designated area so they don't get lost. As a side benefit you may help get cute puppies adopted.
92. Reverse Raffle – Add to any event, especially a dinner event. Give each person a free raffle ticket when they enter the event. Raffle “prizes” will include embarrassing things such as sing a song, do a dance, or smooch your neighbor. Let people “sell” their ticket by donating \$1–\$10.
93. Safari Supper – Convince several local restaurants to host. Travel from restaurant to restaurant to sample appetizers or other small dishes. Sell tickets.
94. Santa Ski – Ask a local ski resort to help. Participants must dress in full Santa attire. If they dress up and donate \$10 to your cause they get a free half day of skiing. Also works for generic costumes. Hold it on the last day or the season when people are more apt to dress crazy (it's warmer out).
95. Test Drive – Ask a local car dealership to collaborate (think BMW, Audi– the nicer the car the better). Offer test–drives for a \$1–\$5 donation. Targeting an older population might make it easier to find a dealership willing to collaborate.
96. Trivia Night – Let students organize teams and charge an entrance fee. Many bars already have trivia nights; see if they will let you collect a cover.
97. Womanless Beauty Pageant – Convince some daring males to dress up as their version of a woman. Host a fashion show where audience members vote on their favorite beauty queen. Try to get a great guy–friendly award donated to lure more contestants. Charge admission and have another fundraiser supplement: silent auction, raffle, t–shirt sales, etc.
98. Sell your services as a dog–walker, baby–sitter, basement cleaner etc, online at our www.fundgiving.org
99. Sell artwork made by children living at Flying Kites
100. Ask a friend with a nice house in a great location if they will consider letting you rent it out for a week to raise money.

Help us add to our idea page. Send us information about successful (and unsuccessful) fundraising efforts so we can help our future volunteers plan events!