



## Events from A-Z

Want to host event but not sure what kind? Put the FUN into FUNdraising with some of these tried and true event ideas! Whether you are a middle school classroom, a big company, a neighborhood, a civic organization, or just you - hosting an event to raise funds and awareness will make a tremendous difference for our American service members!

### A

- **Auction** - There are many ways to do this! Make it a live auction with a few outstanding large ticket items, or silent with a few items, or an online auction on an auction site or social media.
- **Art Exhibition** - Contact an art gallery of your choosing and charge a set fee for people to view and purchase some great art pieces. A portion or all proceeds can be donated.
- **Arts and Crafts Show** - Proceeds from purchases of the Arts and Crafts show can be donated.

### B

- **Bike/Car Wash** - A nice hot weekend is always a good time to get people out to wash their cars - or do a bike wash after a local bike event.
- **Birthday Party** - Ask for donations instead of birthday gifts, send out invitations or cards with donation info.
- **Bling Night Out** - Some local jewelry stores will host events after business hours where guests can buy a ticket and come in and try on any jewelry they like. Add in some snacks and beverages, maybe a giveaway, and let the ladies make a "wish list" for their dream pieces!
- **Beer Tasting** - Bring local breweries in to come highlight their best. Charge for admission and have a few prizes!

- **Beach Bocce Tournament** - Beach Bocce is such a cool sport. Why not host a tournament where teams pay a set price to enjoy a day filled with friendly competition, food, drinks, music and lots of fun?

## C

- **Coin Collection** – Also called a Penny War! Start a competition between classes, families or individuals by giving them each a coin jar to collect change for a designated amount of time. The one with the most collected wins a prize.
- **Cooking contests** - Barbecue, chili, cupcakes, etc.
- **Casual Day** - If your job has a dress code, or your school has a uniform, it's fun to charge everyone a donation amount to get out of it for the day!
- **Car Wash** - Set up a day or a few days to wash cars for a set price.]
- **Car Show** - know some folks with really cool cars? Organize a car show where folks pay to enter their cars for various prizes. Add some food, good music, a raffle or auction and it's sure to be a grand ole time.
- **Concerts** - Are you an awesome musician or band? Host a concert where proceeds or a portion of the proceeds gets donated.

## D

- **Dinner** - With a theme! BBQ, formal, mystery, etc.
- **Dodgeball Tournament** - Organize a fun day of folks dodging balls, add some cool vendors who would be willing to donate their time and proceeds or a portion of their proceeds to this event.
- **Dress Down Day** - Each person who pays a certain amount gets to dress down. (Be sure to clear it with your boss or your principal, first!)

# E

- **Easter Egg Hunt** - While the kids are enjoying a fun day of looking for candy filled eggs, set up a donation jar to raise funds. Or, get more creative by adding color specific eggs for SFF/AMF. When opened, parents will be informed that they are to donate to SFF/AMF with set prices. (Ex: “donate \$1, \$5 or \$10”)
- **Employee Challenge** - Challenge colleagues to reach a work-related goal and the reward is a donation made in their name.
- **Egg ‘Em On** – Go door to door negotiating with each neighbor for how much they will pay to see you do a crazy stunt with a raw egg (i.e. juggle, crack it on your head, throw it up and catch it).

# F

- **5 for 5** - ask 5 friends to donate an amount, and ask them to get 5 friends to donate an amount!
- **Flamingo Flock** - people can pick others flto a donor’s yard and leave a note explaining the cause and asking for a donation to “replant” the flamingos in the yard of the next “victim” the first donor designates.
- **50/50 raffle** - Sell tickets for a price, and at the end ½ of the proceeds go to the winner drawn and ½ is a donation!

# G

- **Garage Tour** - Are you a part of a cool car club? Have a 3 or 4 course meal set up in various garages. Folks are invited to pay for a day that will be filled with yummy food, great music, cool cars and prizes for the fanciest overall car.
- **Gift Wrapping** - People like for their gifts to look like a work of art. During a time of the year when people will need this option, host a gift wrapping party. Charge varying fees to wrap the gifts depending on the size and how much effort it will take to wrap each gift. A portion or all proceeds can go back to us.

- **Golf Tournament** - Fore! Host a tournament big or small- it's one of the most popular ways to raise funds.
- **Give it Up** – Sponsors commit to give up a regular activity for a month and donate the money they save to the designated cause.
- **Go Kart Racing Tournament** - Set up a go kart tournament where attendees pay to enjoy a fun day of racing where we will benefit from funds raised. Add another level by inviting cool vendors to the event if possible where for set prices, folks can enjoy gourmet popcorn, face painting, hot dogs, etc with proceeds adding to the donation.

## H

- **Hair Shave** - Volunteers commit to shaving their heads if a specified amount is raised by a deadline.
- **Hockey Tournament** - Set up a cool hockey tournament where a portion of the proceeds or all proceeds will get donated.
- **Holiday** - Choose that reminds people of our service members or make your day the most special event that week! You don't have to have a large event, start small and build from year to year. (ex: Veterans' Day, Memorial Day, Patriot Day, Thanksgiving, etc.)

## I

- **In Honor Of** - Donate to celebrate someone special to you or your company or school.
- **Ice Cream Social** - A portion of the proceeds of ice cream sales gets donated. I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream!

## J

- **Jeans Day** - Everyone gets to wear jeans if they raise enough money to meet a goal.

- **Jewelry Sale** - Donate old jewelry- one woman's cast off is another's treasure!
- **Journey** - Walk, hike, run, ride, drive, on horseback, skateboard, paddle, or however YOU move!
  - Across America
  - Throughout a region
  - Up a mountain
  - Down a coast

## K

- **Karaoke Contest** - Whether we can actually sing or not, everyone loves to sing out loud! Charge participants a fee to join a fun karaoke contest and donate the funds. You can also add a 2 drink minimum for folks to enter and ask that bar or restaurant attached to the karaoke location to tag along with sending in donations. If they serve meals as well, even better!
- **Kickboxing Tournament** - Reach out to your local kickboxing gym and set up an event where folks get to kickbox each other, win a cool prize, enjoy some good food, drinks and jam out to some great music. Also ask local restaurants to see if they will be open to donating the food and drinks. Proceeds from the ticket sales to enter the contest can be donated.

## L

- **Lemonade Stand** - This super simple, yet delicious idea will cool down a neighborhood, teach children about business and raise funds for us.
- **Lunch Money** - Work with your class, school, office, or sports team to donate lunch money!

## M

- **Make it Up** – Send out invitations to a made up event and offer invitees tickets to support the cause without having to leave home.

- **Make the Grade** – Have students get pledges for “A’s” and “B’s” at the beginning of a quarter and collect the donations after report card time.
- **Motorcycle Poker Run** - Spend the day trying to get the the right hand by riding around to designated locations on a motorcycle. Throw in some food, prizes, an auction, music and this event will be sure to draw a huge crowd.
- **Military Ball** - Celebrate your branch of the Armed Forces by donating the extra funds raised for the ball!

## N

- **No-Shave Month** - Challenge a bunch of guys to not shave for an entire month, the one with the longest beard wins and everyone else has to donate a set amount. If someone drops off the “no shave” wagon, they have to pay double the “no shave” fee.
- **Night Out at a Restaurant** - Work with a local restaurant to have them donate a percentage of a night’s proceeds.
- **New Activity** - Train for your first marathon, triathlon, or anything you haven’t done before, and get support from your family, friends, and community to support SFF!

## O

- **Offer Your Skills and Talents** - Shoveling snow, weeding gardens, chopping wood, you name it!
- **Office Competition** - Which team or department can raise the most?
- **Open House** - If a tour of your workplace would be of interest to the community, host an open house and ask for donations to participate.

## P

- **Push-up/Pull-Up Competition** - Charge participants a certain price to get their body and heart fit by hosting a push-up/pull-up contest. Competitors will get a nice workout while donating to a great cause. Add some food, drinks and music to get even more attendees!
- **Pub Crawl**- A run/walk to various pubs in your community, a great way to get local businesses involved. (Could be a restaurant appetizer crawl too!)
- **Pay it Forward** – Give each person in your organization \$10 and a specific amount of time to use the funds to raise as much as they can for the cause.
- **Plant Sales** - Plant lovers can feel great about being able to tend to the plant environment while a portion of their sales will be benefiting service members and their families. This works particularly well for holidays or start of new season! (Poinsettias at Christmas, lilies at Easter, mums for fall)
- **Penny Drive** - Set up a donation jar at home, work, or school for a period of time. Try to accomplish a certain goal to reach.

## R

- **Raffles** - This is a simple but cool way to raise money. Find folks willing to donate items or their time as prizes, charge a set price per ticket and proceeds are donated.
- **Reverse Raffle** – All potential sponsors get a raffle ticket and sell it back for \$10 to avoid getting their name drawn to do something embarrassing.
- **Road Race** - This is a great way to engage your community - both businesses and residents! It doesn't have to be a marathon or triathlon; 5k and 1-mile are great places to start!

## S

- **Social Media Call** – Let potential donors know about your fundraising need through Facebook and Twitter and ask for support
- **Spa Night** – Offer to have female volunteers give manis, pedis and 5-minute massages at a Ladies' Night Out for donations.
- **Sports Tournaments** - Lacrosse, soccer, bocce, tennis, volleyball, softball - anything! Set up an informational table with promotional literature and accept donations.

# T

- **Trick or Treat!** - Use this door-to-door (or classroom-to-classroom, office-to-office, etc.) holiday to collect coats, candy, or change for a cause you believe in.
- **Talent Show** - Hold a talent show with an entry fee for each act, sell tickets, and see who has talent!
- **Tealess Tea** - For very busy people, hold a virtual “tea” by sending a tea bag and instructions to donate.

# V

- **Valentine’s Day** - Sell sweets, design your own Valentines, the possibilities are endless - and full of love!
- **Vacation Giveaway** - Work with a travel agency, or someone with a vacation home they rent out, to organize a raffle or auction for a fun getaway!
- **Volleyball Tournament** - Whether it’s recreational or a school sport, this is a fun way to raise funds and awareness!

# W

- **Weddings** - in lieu of gifts for wedding guests, make a donation and let them know at your reception.
- **Wine Tasting** - Bring local wineries to come in and sample their best! Charge for admission and have a few prizes!
- **Work of Art** – The younger members in your organization create a drawing that is transferred onto note cards, t-shirts, mouse pads or coffee mugs for purchase.



# Y

- **Yard Sales** - One family's cast offs is another's lucky find.
- **Yoga class** - pay-what-you-can classes are a great way to engage the yoga community's practice with a cause you believe in!
- **Youth Groups** - Is your child a part of a youth group? Teach them how to give back from a young age by having them organize an event of their own thinking and donate the proceeds.

# Z

- **Zumbathon** - Dance your way to being body and heart healthy. Charge a set fee for folks to enjoy a fun day where they get to exercise, throw in some cool treats, and donate a portion or all the proceeds from this event.
- **Zoo Donation Drive** - Reach out to your local zoo to see if they'd like to choose a veteran specific holiday to donate proceeds of their ticket sales for that day, or ask them if they'd like to offer the option to donate to SFF/AMF upon purchase of their tickets for that specific date.