

Plan USA

Be a part of it!

Fundraising Tool Kit

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ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Are you up for a good old-fashioned ice cream social? If you have an ice cream freezer, dust it off and invite some friends over for a cool treat and a fun time. Name your topping! Invite the neighborhood, scout troop, teacher's group, etc., for a make your own sundae - \$1 donation. It's an easy recipe for fun!

TIPS AND HINTS:

Free Ice Cream:

Ask your local grocery store or sweets shop to donate the ice cream and toppings. That way participant's donations will go directly towards your groups activities or donation, rather than covering event overhead.

Specify where donations will go:

Make sure you specify on the can exactly what cause the donations will be used for. Example: "to purchase school supplies for under privileged children." People will be more likely to give if they can associate their donation with a specific cause or ongoing program. And if it happens to be one that warms the heart, it's money in the bank!

Picking Dates and Times:

You should pick a date six weeks in advance if at all possible. Check the calendar section of your local newspaper. Are there any major community events occurring on the same day as your planned fundraiser?

INTERNATIONAL DAY

This is a great way to visit different cultures without leaving your town.

You need a very committed group of volunteers who can set up booths for several different countries. The venue is best in a local school auditorium. Ask local restaurants to donate cuisine from different countries; play their music, show their arts and crafts, clothes. Folks can walk around, visit booths, hear the music, taste the different ethnic food....you can even raffle some of the larger donated items.

INTERNATIONAL DINNER

Here's a chance to be creative. Host a dinner and take friends around the world with your cooking. Charge "admission" for their journey to benefit your groups' activities or donation.

TIPS AND HINTS:

Create a budget:

Create a budget identifying the total number of guests expected, and the cost to feed each guest. Try to get as many supplies as possible

donated so that you don't have to invest a large amount of money. Check with your local grocery stores, restaurants, or butchers to see if they would like to donate. Make sure to acknowledge donations on a poster at the event.

Pick a location:

If your list of guests is too large for your house, try to getting permission to use a school dining hall or church hall for the evening.

Cooking Logistics:

Don't forget to figure out the menu, who will cook, how the food is going to be prepared, and how to transport food to the party location (if necessary).

Tickets:

Selling tickets to the event ahead of time will help you estimate the amount of food to buy as well as how many tables, chairs, plates, cups, and flatware will be needed.

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Publicize your event:

Use posters and press releases to notify the community and media of the event. Consider sending out invitations to local organizations, groups, or schools.

Entertainment:

Consider having a band, DJ or dance group donate their time to entertain your guests before and after the dinner. Also consider having a group discussion about child exploitation, poverty, and ways the local community can help the world's most vulnerable children and communities.

