



## RELAY FOR LIFE

### A – Z Fundraising Ideas

**Ask:** The easiest way to raise money is to ask your friends, classmates, teachers and anyone you know to make a donation to the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life event. Explain your commitment of 24 hours and why you are involved – maybe because of a loved one battling cancer.

**Auctions:** Many teams are putting together live or silent auctions. Teams can make a whole event out of it – work with an auctioneer who will donate his/her time and hold a live auction. Collectibles are hot! Auction off your professor- have the teacher, principal, or department head as your assistant for the day at school. One school's date auction raised \$5000!

**Bake Sales:** Hold a bake sale on campus or at a busy place near your campus. Or have a No-Bake sale where co-workers pay so they don't have to bake goodies.

**Balloon Day:** Sell a Relay balloon with a message attached for \$2 each. The students take orders in advance and then deliver the balloon messages at a later date.

**Bank For a Year:** Get everyone on your team to put in \$2 each week beginning the week after this year's RELAY. In 50 weeks each team member will have his or her \$100. Or try this – 50 cents every day, in 50 weeks you will have collected, from yourself, \$175 – add just two more friends giving you 50 cents each per day and you will now have a total of \$525 in 50 weeks. See how easy it is.

**Bounce-a-thon:** Elementary to high school students can take a collection envelope home to collect pledges for bouncing a basketball for half an hour. Each class in the school takes turns gathering in the school's front hall or gymnasium throughout the day to bounce their basketballs.

**Bowl-a-thon:** Students can hold bowl-a-thons, where they get pledges per pin they knock down.

**Bowling Chance:** \$1 gives you the chance to throw 2 balls (toy bowling set). If you strike your name is entered into a drawing 2 times. If you throw a spare with your second ball your name is entered into the drawing once. Team is to solicit a nice prize for the drawing. This one could be held on site as well.

**Breakfast With:** Put together a breakfast with Santa or the Easter bunny. Work with a local restaurant or your team can do it themselves at a hall or club. Have someone in costume and sell tickets and also have pictures taken. You could also use this as breakfast with the principal, school president or other high profile person. *For the sale of hot food or cold drinks, American Cancer Society sales tax procedures must to be followed.*

**Brown Bag Lunch Day:** Everyone brings in their own lunch and donates the money they would have spent to the Relay For Life fund.

**Can and Bottle Drive:** Set up at a central location and collect cans and bottles from pedestrians. Return for deposit to nearest redemption center.

**Car Washes:** This is another good idea for students, especially in the spring when everyone wants the mud off of their cars. Don't forget to have a tip jar at the end to collect extra donations.

**Change: Spare some change for cancer research:** In the Residence Hall, residents can drop off their change in the jars at the front of their respective residence hall. The residence hall with the most points wins a pizza party for its residents.

**Dances for a Cure:** Students can hold a dance at a local club or hall that many students frequent. Get a band or DJ to donate their services. Attendees donate money to your Relay as their entrance fee.

**Day of Cleaning Raffle:** Team members donate a suggested five hours to spring/fall house clean your home, apartment, or dorm with tickets selling for \$5 each.



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**Decorating Service:** No time to decorate and in need of some assistance with holiday decorating? Have a team put on a fundraiser to decorate trees, put up lights, and decorate the neighbor's houses for a fee. Putting up lights a job many people would like someone else to do.

**Die Cut Cards/Fundraiser Icons:** The suns and moons paper cut outs (available at a minimal cost through the division office) can be sold at businesses, companies, or anywhere people frequent.

**Donut Days:** Students can get donuts donated from a bakery every Friday, and sell them at school.

**Dress Down Days:** Does your school require you to wear uniforms? Work with your administration to fundraise for a dress down day if they make a certain donation.

**Dress as a Woman:** Raise money to have a certain person dress up as a woman for the day, or have someone pay to vote for the individual they would like to see dress as a woman. The two individuals with the most votes would spend the entire workday dressed as a woman.

**Email:** Email your friends and associates for donations.

**Envelope at Restaurant table:** Go to a restaurant near campus or one that is frequented by students and ask if your team can place a Relay For Life envelope at every table during a designated time period, stating "Please support our Campus Relay For Life team and the American Cancer Society." Be sure to have 1-800-ACS-2345 on the envelopes.

**Fashion show:** Work with design students on campus and hold a fashion show on campus. Offer refreshments and your team members can be the models.

**Fast Food Restaurants:** Ask your local restaurants if they will have RELAY day. Either a percentage of the day's earnings or from a certain item on the menu will go towards your team. Your team should be on hand to ask for donations from the patrons as well as be able to talk about the event. For instance you could hold a Fry Day Friday - on a Friday prior to your Relay, a dime from every order of fries sold goes to your team total.

**Game Night:** Have a game night and everyone comes to your house to play board games, charades etc. Charge an "entrance" fee.

**Garage Sales:** Work individually or as a team to set up garage sales- clean out your attic and raise money for the American Cancer Society at the same time!

**Go Door to Door:** Go door to door to all the professors offices and ask for donations.

**Hat (or Cap Day):** For a specified amount, the students can wear a baseball cap to school for the day.

**Haunted House:** For Halloween, organize a haunted house and charge admission. You can also sell refreshments and snacks.

**Hot Dog For Cancer:** Principal at an elementary school agreed that if ALL the teachers would raise \$100 each he would dress up like a hot dog and let the students squirt ketchup, mustard, and relish on him.

**Ice Cream Socials:** Plan one at school, asking for a donation to attend.

**Jail & Bail:** For a donation professors, students, and participants can be arrested. For an additional donation they can post their own bail, or they have a bounty placed on their head, are arrested and are not set free until the entire bounty is raised (\$100 or more per inmate) This activity can also be done on site.



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**Letter Writing:** A great way to ask for donations without asking in person. Send letters out to your friends and family explaining what you're doing and why, and asking for a specific amount (more than you want) seems to work best or leave it up to them. Write them your personal goal and ask for their help. Some people are writing letters on behalf of their pets or babies. Add a little humor to the letter as well.

**Matching Gifts:** Ask your company to match what you raise. Some companies have a matching gift policy, check to see if your does. If they don't ask them anyway.

**Movie night:** Invite your friends over for a night at the movies. You provide the popcorn and soda and charge admission. Or have a movie week during lunch hour at school. Charge admission and invite professors to eat their lunch while they watch. *For the sale of hot food or cold drinks, American Cancer Society sales tax procedures must to be followed.*

**Nonalcoholic cocktail party:** have a nonalcoholic cocktail party at the RELAY and ask for donations. Or have a moving one, where each team has different appetizers and drinks available so people go tent to tent. Be sure to have your donation cans next to the refreshments. You could also do this as a team and move from house to house, dorm to dorm, on different weekend nights.

**Pancake Breakfasts:** Hold a pancake breakfast on campus and invite students and teachers to attend. Ask local grocery stores to donate the items you will need: pancake mix, syrup, orange juice, plates, forks, etc.

**Parking Space Auction:** College students can auction off the presidents parking spot.

**Percentage of Sales:** Ask a store that is a favorite of students of your campus and ask them to designate a percentage of one day's sales or proceeds and let the public know so they will buy more.

**Program Ad Sales:** Some RELAYS are giving partial credit to teams who sell ads for the program. You would have to check with your RELAY committee to see if this is an option.

**Raffles:** There are so many different types of raffles you could have so be Creative. *Please ensure American Cancer Society and State policies and procedures are followed for this event.*

**Sell employee Services:** i.e. get the best gourmet chef on your team to agree to go to someone's home and prepare a meal (for a fee of course) Get your principal/school present to commit to wash an employee's or professor's car, or several if willing.

**Shave your head:** Have someone agree to have their hair shaved once a certain amount of money has been raised.

**Sports Tournaments:** Teams organize bowling, hockey, basketball, soccer, and other sports tournaments.

**Student/Faculty Basketball Game:** Set up a benefit basketball game between students and faculty, Or put together an alumni game.

**Super Bowl party:** Have a super bowl party and ask everyone for donations when they get there. The same can be done for the NCAA Championship basketball game, Indy 500, Masters final round etc. Great idea for the team member with a big screen TV!

**Vending machines:** Coordinate with your vendor on campus to add .05 cents to the cost of a snack or soda prior to RELAY, with the extra nickel going to your team total.

**Yard Sales:** Work together as a team, or have one individually and donate the proceeds to Relay. Ask a bakery or grocery store to donate donuts and juice to give to people that visit your yard sale.

**Zoot Suit Party:** Swing music is in! Hold a swing dance party and give awards for the best zoot suit there.