



## Non-Food, No-Cost and Low-Cost Fundraising Ideas

Iowa Department of Education

Consider ways to raise funds for your school or student group with events that are no-cost or very low-cost, and with (almost!) pure profit. All the money raised goes directly to the cause, rather than some of the money going to a third party.

### Anything “-a-thon”

**Walk-a-thon**

**Bike-a-thon**

**Swim-a-thon**

**Read-a-thon**

**Jog-a-thon**

**Marathon**

**Basketball-a-thon**

**Bowl-a-thon**

**Baseball-a-thon**

**Softball-a-thon**

**Geography-a-thon**

**Volleyball-a-thon**

**Takedown-a-thon:** for wrestling teams; ask people to sponsor you for the year by pledging so much money per takedown; at end of season, sponsors pay up. For example, wrestler had 40 takedowns x \$1 each=\$40.

**Math-a-thon:** the whole school can be involved, from Preschool students writing numbers in order 1-10 to older students solving algebra or geometry problems.

**Touchdown-a-thon:** ask people to sponsor a dollar per point scored by the home team. This could be points for the whole season, for just one game, at just the rival match game, and it could sponsor the team and/or an individual.

**Sponsor half a game:** sponsor would pay a dollar per point scored by the home team at the end of the first half or at the end of the whole game. Soccer, softball and baseball could be \$10 per point scored, or all points scored for the whole season. Bowling could be a larger amount per strike or spare.

**Backstage tour** before the musical/play/concert; demonstrate the instruments, talk about the pieces that will be performed, show how curtains go up and down and how the scenery is moved. Show off the costumes. Demonstrate stage makeup secrets. Charge a fee or accept free-will donations.

**Meet the cast** before the musical/play/concert. Pose for pictures with the stars. Offer a simple craft that kids could make that would complement the theme of the play. Charge a fee or accept free-will donations.

Have a **carwash**

Sponsor a **Dodgeball tournament**: charge teams of 6-8 to enter the tournament; encourage faculty to get a team together, too. Invite parents and the community to come watch and sell tickets for admission or accept free-will donations. Encourage team costumes and creative team names; the more colorful, the better. Consider awards for the most creative attire and the most enthusiastic team.

Host a **Volleyball tournament**

How about hosting a March **3 on 3 basketball** tournament?

**Sponsor a dance**. Grab some music and sound system, charge an admission fee or accept free-will donations. Sell water and some healthy snacks to hungry dancers.

**Go Hairless**: Brave volunteers commit to shaving their heads (or beards) if a specified amount is raised by a deadline.

**Change It**: start a competition between classes, families, students and teachers by collecting loose change for a designated amount of time.

**If You Fear Change....Leave it Here!** Print labels with "If you fear CHANGE, leave it here!" and put on large collection jars to put at businesses or at events.

**You're Hired**: volunteers commit to working for a morning or afternoon doing any odd jobs (like mowing, raking, babysitting, or cleaning) for the sponsor who "hires" them. Think seasonally, too: put up Christmas lights or wrap presents, deep cleaning before Thanksgiving, spring cleaning in April.

**Pump It Up**: Ask a local gas station if they will allow your group to pump gas for tips on a Saturday morning. Make sure to wash the windshields, too! The gas station just may give a donation, too.

**Trash to Treasure**: Ask for donated items to sell at a yard sale. No cost, all profit.

**Can Drive**: collect pop cans at a drop off spot during a set time and arrange to stop by an collect cans from people's homes if needed.

This project is part of the CDC 1305 Grant project. Questions? Comments? Please contact Angela Mitchell, Consultant, at [angela.mitchell@iowa.gov](mailto:angela.mitchell@iowa.gov).





