

Fund-Raising Ideas

If you don't have a relative who works for the Treasury Department, you may need some assistance in raising some cash for this worthwhile project. Below, please find some tips and ideas that will help you to take part in the mission trip!

Tip #1--When you tell others about the trip, realize that you are going to be working about 50 hours during our week on site. Yes, we are going to do some fun-stuff, but some folks may not understand. Remember our primary purpose during this week is to help others.

Tip #2--Talk to a school principal or pastor and treasurer, that knows you, about having their organization receipt funds. Have donors make checks out to their organization. That way donors can receive a tax-deductible receipt!

Fund Raising Idea #1--Write Letters. It takes about 20 to 30 letters to raise the needed funds for the typical short-term service project. Friends and relatives make the best prospects. Put together a one-page letter describing your activity and state the amount you are trying to raise.

Fund Raising Idea #2--If you are part of a church, tell the pastor what you are trying to do and see if the church will take up a special offering just for you! Let the pastor and congregation know that once you return, you'll show them a slide presentation of your trip.

Fund Raising Idea #3--Car Wash. Contact people who will sponsor you for every car you wash. For example, they can give you .10, .25, or 1.00 per car. With enough donors, you can get \$5-10 per car that you wash. Set yourself up at a location with lots of traffic. Talk your friends into helping you. When you are on site, buy them a thank you gift from the city!

Fund Raising Idea #4--Obtain sponsors who will commit a set amount of money for every hour you spend sleeping in a card board box simulating homelessness. Two people recently raised \$1,200 by sleeping 10 hours! Make money while you sleep.

Fund Raising Idea #5--Auction yourself! Yes, commit the next 4 or 5 Sundays or whenever you can work it in, to be available to people for yard work or odd jobs around their homes. A school or church may pay you for doing some repairs around their facility!

Fund Raising Idea #6--Have a yard sale where members of your community, school or church donate items for you to sell. Don't forget to go through your stuff! Proceeds go to help pay your expenses!

RULES FOR SCHOOLS AND CHURCH GROUPS

When fund raising by letter:

- #1 Participants may never ask their own parents for money.
- #2 Each participant must commit to writing a minimum of 10 letters.
- #3 Addresses of all persons written to must be entered on a master list.*
- #4 Each student must submit a draft and final copy of the letter they are going to send for approval. (This may be to the group leader or a teacher who takes on this responsibility. Could be an English class project.)
- #5 All letters sent must be hand written.

(Note of caution: Students receiving financial aid from individuals and/or the church need special guidance regarding fund raising to prevent negative backlash.)

Follow up:

- #1 Send a standard data base letter to all persons on the master list detailing the project and its time line two weeks** after the participants mail their letters. To make sure that the students meet the deadline have a mission mail party where postage is paid out of the mission expense.
- #2 Before the participants leave, have them drop a post card note thanking all of the persons on their mailing list for their continued support as they leave on the mission trip.
- #3 After the trip send a post card (photo of the group at the mission site is a great idea) to each person on the list communicating the value of the experience.
- #4 Have a mission trip report and presentation for your church family.

*This is especially important for day schools with shared constituents. You may find it better to exclude your church members unless they are relatives. Your church family can be asked as a whole to get involved through creative fund raising events. Most students have relatives and family friends outside the church family. If not, this is a time to get creative or begin dividing the contacts.

This record keeping could be done by a volunteer. This is a great way to involve some of your retired members, Home and School, Century Club members, etc., who may have some extra time to help with this project.

**Think volunteer support for this follow up work.

