

Fundraising Ideas

To Help Bring Girls and Their Leaders To the July National Gathering for Girls (Green Lake Conference Center, WI)

1. "Fuzzy Money:" Find a very hairy male (a dad, an uncle, a friend) who would be willing to "auction off" his facial hair for a good cause! Put two large buckets or jars in the foyer, one marked "Shave!" and one marked "Don't Shave!" Invite members of the congregation to vote with pocket change or dollar bills. The jar or bucket with the most money in it after the designated period of time determines the end result. It is best to run this fundraiser over four weeks, and announce the running tally each week, encouraging people to give more to the jar of their choice. A church in Rochester, NY, did this fundraiser several years ago, and raised close to \$300 in one month. It's rumored that the gentleman's wife stuffed the ballot box the last week so he wouldn't have to shave...and he didn't! (This same idea could be adapted to women with cutting hair.)
2. "Rent-A-Helping-Hand:" For a fundraiser with a little more point to it (!), do this variation on the "Rent-A-Kid" fundraiser (in which people pay money to have members of the group come to do work around their homes). People may "rent-a-kid" to do work at someone else's home, or at a mission site, or visit in a nursing home...in other words, people are encouraged to think of others who may need help. Keep safety issues in mind and make sure girls are only sent out in groups with adequate adult supervision. Never send a group to a home whose owners are unknown.
3. "Makeover Mayhem:" Set up an afternoon or evening fun event with the women of the church. Put on a dinner or dessert buffet, and offer the following services: Manicure (nail painting only) with Funky Colors: \$5, with Normal Colors: \$7; Hair Styling Punk Style: \$5, with Accessories: \$7, Punk and Accessories: \$10 (use wash-out colors only, go to town with ribbons, bows, fake extensions, etc); Make-Up Application Funky Style: \$5, Classic style: \$7. Total Makeover: \$20. Girls will most likely have hair doo-dads in their own supplies they might be willing to donate; otherwise makeup, brushes, wash-out hair color spray, nail polish, accessories, etc., can generally all be found in the dollar store. You may also be able to find a willing Avon or MaryKay Consultant who could donate samples. Be sure that all hair brushes, make-up brushes and applicators being used are clean for each person (disposable ones are easy to find at dollar stores or beauty supply stores), and do not apply mascara. (Women can be invited to bring their own mascara for application if they choose—it's too easy to hurt someone, some people are sensitive to mascara, and using other people's mascara is an easy way to spread disease.) Be sure to have a photographer present to do a "photo shoot" of each person at the end! Consider using a Polaroid camera and selling the photos for \$2 (film for each photo costs roughly \$1); or a digital camera and instant photo printer, and set the price accordingly (based on the estimated expense of the paper and ink).
4. Bake Sales are best if done in arrangement with a large discount chain store like WalMart. Contact the store well in advance to set up a time, be sure you have

enough girls and adults to staff the table at all times, and ask the congregation to help supply the baked goods. Consider asking people to type up the recipe on small pieces of paper with the donated baked good, and give out the recipes with the purchased goods. Be sure to have some healthier options, such as lower-fat versions of quick breads, etc. On the healthier options, people might also appreciate nutritional information, if it's available from the recipe. Nicely packaged goods will sell better than cookies on a paper plate covered in plastic wrap. If you have a church cookbook, do a "theme bake sale" which only includes items from the cookbook, and be sure to have plenty of cookbooks available to sell, as well!

5. Be in touch with any home-product salespeople in your congregation: Tupperware, Pampered Chef, children's toys, cosmetics, etc. Often, these companies will allow their consultants to offer parties in conjunction with fundraisers. The girls and young women in your group could help the consultant host a party, and receive some of the profits.
6. From Dawn Doerr: One of our fundraisers for yearbook was VERY popular. Penny War requires several teams, at least one of which is the "Bad Guys" (in our case, the teachers were the "bad guys"). Each team has a piggy bank or can into which money is placed. Pennies are worth 1 point, Gold or Silver dollars are worth 100 points. Everything else is worth negative points. Nickels . . . -5, Dimes . . . -10, and Quarters . . . -25 points. Announce the point total once a week for the length of the contest. Team members put pennies in their own container to gain points while putting silver in the other teams containers so that they lose points. If the "bad guys" want to even stay close, they cough up big bucks. We raised about \$350 dollars in approximately 20 days.
7. Purse auction: Ask women for donations of new or "gently used" purses; have donators fill the purse with secret surprises (of their choice). Keep the items inside the purses secret. At a dinner or fellowship event with the women of the congregation, hold an auction! This is especially effective if you can find someone who can do the "auctioneer patter," to get the excitement rolling. Provide auction paddles (with an identifying number on each for the bidder to raise when making a bid); these can be made with card stock stapled to a wooden paint stirrer (obtained at a home store). As each purse is auctioned off, have the winning woman or girl open her purse to reveal the gift inside. (Angela Eikenberry raised \$450 for a Girls of Joy State Project with this one, and the purse auction at the National Women's Conference of 2004 raised over \$800 for ministry with girls nationally.)

Have some ideas of your own? Be sure to post them on the message boards of our website at www.abwministries.org. Let's help each other make the trip possible for everyone!