

CIY FUNDRAISING IDEAS

Purpose:

We understand that attending a CIY event is a financial commitment—between the cost of the event, transportation, meals, and other logistics, it can add up quickly. But we also believe it's worth it. Our hope is that no student misses out on this life-changing experience due to finances. This guide offers a variety of fundraising ideas to help your group offset costs so everyone can be part of an amazing experience.

Use this list to spark ideas and plan your efforts based on your group's size, time, and resources.

Fundraising Ideas

MERCH/PRODUCTS

- ☐ Custom t-shirts or hoodies
- ☐ Church-themed bracelets, keychains, or stickers
- ☐ Coffee, cookie dough, or popcorn sales
- ☐ Partner with a local business (Chick-fil-A, Qdoba, Raising Cane's, etc.) for spirit nights

FOOD-BASED

- ☐ Spaghetti dinner or pancake breakfast (host at church and encourage a donation)
- ☐ Baked goods auction (have students or parents bake items)
- ☐ Concession stand at church events or sports games

SERVICE-ORIENTED

- ☐ Rent-a-Student (students do yardwork, babysitting, cleaning, etc. for donations)
- ☐ Parents' Night Out (offer childcare at church for a night)

- ☐ Car wash (after a Sunday service so church members can get their cars washed as they leave the parking lot)

EVENT-BASED

- ☐ Trivia night or game night fundraiser
- ☐ Silent auction (solicit donations from local businesses or church members)
- ☐ Envelope wall (100 envelopes labeled \$1–\$100, donors pick one to give)

ONLINE GIVING

- ☐ Set up a donation page through your church giving system
- ☐ Share a Venmo, Cash App, or giving link via social media
- ☐ Create a CIY Trip Scholarship Fund and promote it to the church body

Tips for Successful Fundraising

- ☐ Communicate clearly to your church about what the funds support—transparency is key. Be sure to share the spiritual impact of CIY.
- ☐ Promote through multiple channels: Sunday mornings, youth group, email, text, and social media.
- ☐ Make it fun. Fundraising can double as team-building for your group.
- ☐ Say thank you. Have students write handwritten thank-you notes or share stories post-trip.