



Here for young people
Here for communities
Here for you

A-Z list of fun fundraising ideas

February 2025

A

Abseil Challenge: Take fundraising to new heights with a thrilling abseiling challenge.

Afternoon Tea: Host an elegant afternoon tea with friends, family, or colleagues and raise funds while enjoying delicious treats

Arm Wrestling Competition: Find out who is the strongest with a fun arm-wrestling contest and collect donations for entry

Art Exhibition: Highlight the work of local artists and raise money through entry fees and artwork sales.

Auction- Charity: Encourage local businesses to donate prizes for an in-person or online auction to support your cause. Organise a live or silent auction featuring donated items, exciting experiences, or unique employee talents.

B

Bake Sale: Get colleagues involved by baking and selling delicious treats in the office to raise funds

BBQ: Fire up the grill and host a charity BBQ Day with friends, family, or neighbours to support a worthy cause.

Bingo Night: Gather everyone for a fun-filled bingo night

Birthday Donations: Instead of gifts, ask your loved ones to donate to make your birthday even more meaningful.

Book or Boot Sale: Clear out unwanted books or items and organise a community sale

C

Charity Challenge: Set a fund challenge (like fitness goal or creative task) and gather donations as employee participate

Car wash: help shine up local cars in a community car wash

Cocktail night: mix up your favourite drinks in a charity cocktail evening

Coffee morning: get together and enjoy a cuppa while raising money

Crafts: turn your hobbies into a fundraising activity and get crafting
Cycling get sponsored to hop on your bike

D

Dress-Down Day: Allow employees to dress casually for a donation.

Dance-a-thon: see who can last the longest on the dancefloor

Darts contest: take aim to see who lands the bullseye in a round of darts

Dinner party: pick a theme and host your own charity dinner party

Dog show: let those pups strut their stuff to see who is voted the winner

Drawing contest: challenge people to show off their drawing skills

E

Escape Room Event: Set up a themed escape room in the office or visit a local venue

eBay: sell any unwanted items you have lying around on eBay

Egg painting contest: get creative to see who can paint the best egg

Etsy: use your crafting skills to sell your awesome creations on Etsy

Exercise marathon: hold a daylong event to see who can go the distance

Eurovision party: everyone can represent a different country at this party

F

Facebook fundraising: use Facebook fundraising tools on your social media posts

Fancy dress day: hold a fancy-dress day at school or work for a donation

Fashion show: rock your best outfits in a local charity fashion show

Film night: host your own film night, you can even get creative with themes

Football match: see who will score the winning goals in a charity game

G

Guess Games night: get competitive in a board games or video games night

Give something up: get sponsored giving up something you love

Golf day: get outside and take to the green in a charity golf day event

Grow a beard: let it all grow out

H

Health Challenge: Launch a step-count competition or wellness campaign with entry fees

Harry Potter party: discover Hogwarts with your own Harry Potter party

Head shave: shave all your hair off for some sponsorship money

Hiking: take a sponsored hike and see how long you can trek for

Homebrewing: try your hand at some homebrewing and sell your drinks

Hour of earnings: challenge your colleagues to donate an hour of their pay

I

Innovation Contest: Employees pitch ideas to solve a company challenge, with a donation to enter.

Ice cream tasting: discover all the different flavours in a tasting event

Improv night: let your community flex their skills at an improv night

International food party: ask everyone to bring a dish from a specific cuisine

Iron man challenge: hold an iron man event and see who can tough it out

It's a Knockout: have some fun with an It's a Knockout event

J

Jam making: try your hand at making some jam at home to sell

Jazz night: take in some smooth tunes at your own jazz night event

Jigsaw puzzle marathon: see who can complete the most puzzles fastest

Joke-a-thon: crack out your best jokes to exchange laughs for donations

Jumble sale: see what old or unwanted items you have lying around to sell

K

Karaoke Night: Host a karaoke competition with an entry fee and charge for song requests.

Kayaking: take to the water to see who wins a charity kayak race

Keepy uppy contest: who will keep the ball up in the air the longest?

Kick a habit: challenge yourself to break a bad habit while raising money

Knitting: use your knitting skills to create some items to sell

L

Lunch-and-Learn: Offer a workshop or invite a guest speaker with attendees donating to participate

Las Vegas night: enjoy a glitzy Vegas casino themed evening

Learn a new skill: get sponsored to learn a useful new skill

Lego contest: see who can build the most impressive Lego creation

Livestream: host an online gaming, cooking, fitness, or crafting livestream

Loose change collection: ask people to donate any loose change they have

M

Movie Night: Screen a popular movie at the office and charge for tickets and snacks.

Makeover: ask people to donate skills for hairdressing, manicures etc

Mobile free day: challenge everyone to go without phones for a full day

Mountain climb: rise to the top with a mountain climb challenge

Murder mystery party: find out who done it at a murder mystery night

Music concert: hold your own local music event or battle of the bands

N

Nail art: raise money through creating beautiful nail art on people

Name the [blank] contest: challenge people to name the song or movie

Needlework sale: create some impressive needlework you can sell

Netball tournament: take to the court for charity netball matches

Nighttime walk: get sponsored to walk alone or with friends all night long

Nonstop Relay: Set up a relay event where teams keep the activity going for hours (e.g., running, biking, or even hula hooping).

O

Obstacle course: see who can complete the obstacle course fastest

Onion chopping challenge: who can go the longest without shedding tears?

Open mic night: let anyone take to the stage in an open mic event

Original recipe contest: bring out your best recipes to be crowned winner

Outdoor theatre: hold an outdoor theatre event

Office Olympics: Organise games like chair races or paper toss challenges, with an entry fee for teams.

P

Pet Day: Let employees bring their pets to work for a donation or host a pet photo contest.

Penalty shootout: step up to the line for a penalty shootout tournament

Plank / press up challenge: see who has the strength to hold out the longest

Poetry day: get lyrical and share your poems in front of an audience

Poker night: all money won in the game gets donated to charity

Potluck event: everyone brings a dish to contribute to the potluck

Q

Quad bike racing: get the adrenaline pumping in a quad bike race

Quickest time contests: see who can complete a task the fastest

Quiet hour: challenge people to stay quiet for an hour, donate for every noise

Quintessentially British party: tea, scones, and everything British

Quiz night: test everyone's knowledge with a quiz night to raise money for charity

QR – Raffle: Sell tickets for a chance to win donated prizes.

R

Read-a-thon: challenge people to get reading for charity

Roaring twenties party: host a decadent theme party for your friends

Rock climbing: see who can reach the top in a rock-climbing challenge

Run: test out your endurance by challenging yourself

S

Scavenger Hunt: Organise an office-wide or city-wide scavenger hunt with a charitable entry fee

Sky Dive: take to the skies and get sponsored

Sports day: get nostalgic with a school sports day themed event

Street party: all your neighbours can get involved with a local street party

Superhero party: dress up as the person you consider your superhero or day at work etc

Short story contest: hold a contest to find the best short stories

T

Table tennis tournament: see who edges out the competition at table tennis

Talent contest: give everyone the chance to show off their best talents

Teddy bear picnic: host a teddy bear picnic for families to enjoy

Tombola: run a local tombola with fun prizes to help raise money for charity

Treasure hunt: put together a treasure hunt around your town

U

Ultimate frisbee: take to your local park for an ultimate frisbee competition

Uniform free day: skip the uniform for a day in return for a small donation

University Challenge: host your own University Challenge style event

Unplug from tech: get sponsored to completely switch off from tech for a day

Upcycling: transform old items into something new that you can then sell

Ugly Sweater Day: Host a themed day with employees donating to wear funny or themed attire

V

Variety show: hold a local variety show and enjoy an evening of entertainment

Vegetable growing: see what vegetables you can grow and sell

Video game competition: discover who is the best when it comes to gaming

Village fete: organise a village fete to help raise money

Vintage sale: rummage through your closets to find vintage looks to sell

Volunteer Auction: Employees bid on volunteering time from co-workers or bosses for fun tasks.

W

Wear YMCA Orange day: encourage people to wear YMCA Orange for the day

Wedding gifts: instead of gifts, you can ask for donations to charity

Window cleaning: offer to clean neighbourhood windows for a donation

Wine tasting: enjoy some delicious drinks at your own wine tasting event

World record attempt: challenge people to try and break a world record

Walk-a-Thon: Plan a group walk/run with participants raising funds through sponsorships.

X Y Z

X Factor competition: host your own X Factor style singing contest

Yoga marathon: release the tension and stretch out your body for longer

Yo-yo contest: crack out your best yo-yo skills in a competition or a class

Zero waste day: challenge yourself to go fully zero waste for a week

Zip wire: soar through the sky as you take on a zip wire challenge

Zany Costume Day: Set a wacky costume theme, with employees donating to participate or vote on the best outfit.

Southend YMCA

For more information, please contact:

**Contact details :
fundraising@southendymca.org.uk**

Social media:

- **Facebook- Southend YMCA**
- **Instagram- @southendymca**
- **LinkedIn: southend-on-sea-ymca**

Website: www.southendymca.org.uk



**Here for young people
Here for communities
Here for you**

YMCA enables people to develop their full potential in mind, body and spirit. Inspired by, and faithful to, our Christian values, we create supportive, inclusive and energising communities, where young people can truly belong, contribute and thrive.

FAMILY & YOUTH WORK

HEALTH & WELLBEING

HOUSING

TRAINING & EDUCATION

SUPPORT & ADVICE