

Relay For Life On-site Fundraising Ideas

On-site fundraisers at Relay For Life events are not only an opportunity to boost your overall fundraising efforts, but also contribute to a fun and engaging atmosphere throughout the event.

You can easily turn your individual talents, hobbies, or interests into an on-site fundraiser. Some of the most successful fundraisers involve things that people would spend money on anyway: food, entertainment, gifts, and personal services. Sell your famous cookies for donation or auction off a day working in the yard this spring. The possibilities are limitless!

When selecting an on-site fundraiser, remember to consider the following:

- **Ensure your fundraising idea meets all necessary guidelines:** The best way to do this is to work with your local staff and committee to ensure that you are in compliance with all fundraising guidelines within your state and with the American Cancer Society.
- **Know your audience:** Keep in mind that the Relay For Life program is made up of many different people. Proper planning, communication, and understanding of your audience can ensure that your activities are well received by those attending.
- **Communicate:** Don't forget to promote it! Make a plan to share your fundraising plans with the ELT, other event participants, and your community.
- **Have fun!** On-site fundraisers are a great way to build team spirit and the overall spirit of all those at the event!

NOTE: Any fundraising activities that include raffles or drawings of chance are subject to state laws. Please contact your American Cancer Society staff partner for details in your area before planning your activity.

Onsite Fundraising Ideas A-Z

Auction (Silent or Live): Host a silent or live auction with donated items from local businesses, team members, or participants. Items could include gift certificates, memorabilia, or unique experiences.

Bake Sale: Set up a bake sale booth featuring cakes, cookies, cupcakes, and other treats. You can even make it a “themed” bake sale, like cupcakes with purple ribbons or Relay For Life decorations.

Balloon Launch: For a donation, team members can purchase a biodegradable balloon and write a message to a loved one. Near the end of the Relay event, everyone gathers around with their balloons and release them at the same time.

Balloon Pop:

Before filling each balloon, put a note inside with the name of a prize. Participants can donate for a chance to pop up a balloon and learn what their prize is.

Beaded Bracelets: Host a craft table with colored and letter beads where participants can create bracelets or have a team member make one for them for a donation.

Bean Bag Toss: Give participants a chance to win a prize by throwing a bean bag at a board or target. Sell one chance for a donation or create packages of 3 or 5 chances.

Bowling Chance: Participants pay for a chance to throw two balls at a toy bowling set. A strike enters their name into a drawing twice and a spare enters their name once. Draw names for prizes at the end of the event.

Car Wash: Set up a car wash station where participants can get their vehicles cleaned for a donation.

Caricatures: Offer caricatures at your campsite for a donation. Get creative!

Children's Activities: Host an area aimed at entertaining the kids at Relay! Have carnival games, potato sack races, hula hoop contests, limbo, temporary tattoos, etc. that they can participate in for a donation.

Craft Sales: Sell crocheted ponchos, blankets, coasters, greeting cards, anything you can make at home and people may like. Get creative!

Dunk Tank: Set up a dunk tank where participants can pay to throw a ball and try to dunk a volunteer or team member. It's a fun and interactive way to raise money while giving people a chance to "cool off" during the event. You can get local celebrities, participants, or team captains to be dunked for added excitement.

Escape Room Challenge: Set up a temporary escape room or a "puzzle challenge" booth where participants pay to join a team and solve clues to "escape" within a set time. You can create a simple version with puzzles, riddles, or themed challenges related to cancer awareness or Relay For Life.

Face Painting: Offer face painting for kids and adults alike. Choose images based on the event theme or Relay purple.

Fishing for a Cure: Set up a booth that looks like a pond with poles, etc. with prizes floating in it and ask for a donation to fish for a prize.

Flower and Plant Sale: Get a local plant store/florist to sell at the event like fresh cut flowers, house plants, succulents, etc.

Glow-in-the-Dark Dance Party: Host a glow-in-the-dark dance party where participants can dance to music while wearing glow sticks, neon face paint, or LED accessories. Charge a fee for entry, and offer glow accessories for sale.

Haircutting/Head Shaving: Have a hair stylist donate their time and encourage participants to have their

heads shaved or donate their hair for a good cause.

Hole in One Try: Set up a portable putting green let people try and putt the ball in for a donation. Put names of people that make a hole in one and do a drawing for a prize.

Ice Cream Stand: Set up an ice cream or shaved ice stand. Offer a variety of toppings and flavors to draw in the crowd.

Jail and Bail: For a donation, participants can be arrested. For an additional donation, they can post their own bail or participants have a bounty placed on their head, are arrested, and are not set free until the entire bounty is raised (\$100+ per inmate).

Jewelry Sale: Sell handmade or donated jewelry. This can include bracelets, necklaces, earrings, and other accessories. Customize with cancer awareness ribbons or Relay For Life themes.

Karaoke Contest: Set up a karaoke stage where participants can sing their hearts out for donations. Charge an entry fee for those who want to perform, or allow the audience to vote for their favorite performances by donating. You can also offer small prizes for the best or most creative performances, and keep the energy high with fun music and crowd participation.

Lap Beads: Sell necklaces with beads for participants to track how many laps they have walked throughout the event.

Lawn Games: Set up lawn games like giant Jenga, checkers, or horseshoes. People can play for a fee, and the proceeds go to your fundraising goal.

Massage Booth: Ask a massage therapist to donate their time and give 15-20 minute massages for a donation throughout the event.

Mini Golf: Create a mini golf course at your event. Use inexpensive materials like PVC pipes and plastic cups for the holes. Charge a fee for each round of golf.

Nail Art Station: Set up a nail art station where people can get cancer awareness or Relay For Life themed nail designs.

Nickel Toss: Have kids toss a nickel into a jar to raise money. All nickels tossed go to the American Cancer Society, and the winner(s) get a prize.

Obstacle Course: Set up an obstacle course for participants to challenge themselves. Charge a fee to enter and offer a prize for the fastest time or best team performance.

Pitch for a Cure: Throw baseballs at three stacked milk jugs. Three balls for 50 cents. Prizes given for all milk jugs knocked down.

Photo Booth: Create a photo booth with fun props like purple wigs and boas, and a backdrop related to cancer awareness or Relay For Life. Offer printed photos for a donation.

Pie or Cake Drawing: Team members bake different cakes and bring them to the Relay event. Tickets can be bought with a drawing taking place every hour of the event to pull winners.

Purple Hair Salon: Set up a station to turn participants' hair purple! Bring glitter and other accessories to add special touches to the final look.

Purple Out Station: Help everyone get decked out in Relay purple! Sell bandanas, colored hair spray, feather boas, etc. to spread the Relay spirit.

Quiz Contest: Host a quiz contest with questions related to cancer awareness, Relay For Life and American Cancer Society history, or general knowledge. Participants can pay to compete, and you can offer a prize to the winner.

Raffle: Organize a raffle with donated prizes such as electronics, gift cards, or event tickets. Sell tickets throughout the event and draw the winners at a designated time. *Please check with your ACS staff partner about state gambling laws.*

Road to Recovery Cardboard Car Parade: Collect cardboard boxes and have supplies like scissors, markers, and other materials to decorate to turn them into a car for a donation. Host a Road to Recovery lap to highlight the American Cancer Society mission program and show off their cars.

Snack Stand: Set up a snack stand selling chips, pretzels, granola bars, and other easy-to-serve items. Offer healthy snacks as an alternative to traditional event foods.

Strongest Relayer Competition: Bring a pull up bar and see who can hang on the longest! Keep track of the latest record holder so participants can see how they compare throughout the event. The record holder at the end of the event wins a prize! Split into categories based on age range.

Treasure Hunt: Organize a treasure hunt around the event site. Participants pay a fee to join the hunt and follow clues to find hidden "treasures." You can offer small prizes for those who complete the hunt or raise the stakes with bigger prizes for those who find the final treasure.

Used Book Sale: Host a used book sale where attendees can donate books and purchase them for a small donation. This is especially great for a crowd of readers or families.

Veggie or Fruit Carving Contest: Host a veggie or fruit carving contest where participants can pay to enter and show off their artistic skills by carving pumpkins, melons, or other produce. Provide carving tools or let participants bring their own. You can also offer mini prizes for the most creative, funny, or detailed carvings. Display the carved creations around the event for others to admire and vote on with a donation.

Water Balloon Toss: Host a fun water balloon toss competition. Participants pay a fee to join, and you can offer prizes for the last team standing.

Xtreme Relay: Organize an "Xtreme" relay challenge where participants must complete unusual tasks like carrying an egg on a spoon or balancing a book on their head. Charge an entry fee for teams to participate.

Yearbook/Photo Memory Wall: Create a Yearbook/Photo Memory Wall where participants can pay to have a photo or message added in honor of a loved one affected by cancer. This could include family members, friends, or personal stories. You can offer a digital or printed keepsake of their message or photo for a donation.

Zumba Dance-a-thon: Host a Zumba or dance-a-thon where participants raise money to dance for a set period. Encourage participants to get pledges per minute or hour danced, and offer a prize for the best dancer.