

## Fun-Raising Ideas

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Your campaign will be memorable because of the organizational, creative and motivational techniques you use to build support. Think of several inspiring campaign events around the theme "The Magic of CFC."

Not everything you do has to make money. Sometimes just getting together for fun can be a good way to remind people about the campaign. Many companies also like to include fun activities in their kickoff, or as a thank you to their employees for contributing to a great campaign.

### Paper Airplane Contest



Have a paper airplane contest from an upper floor of your building, with an entrance fee going to the Big Sky CFC and prizes awarded for longest and straightest flight.

**Volunteer Day** - Employees who give at or above a certain level are rewarded with eight hours they can use volunteering in the community any way they wish.

### Halloween Pumpkin Carving Contest



Plan a Halloween theme and hold a pumpkin-carving contest. Find a local business willing to donate pumpkins for your organization to sell to your employees. Employees buy pumpkins for their families to use in the contest. Charge \$5 to enter and \$1 per vote. Award prizes for various categories: best traditional, most creative, best effort by group, best effort by an individual. Throw a party to end your campaign.



**Putt-putt Contest** - Design and set up your own wacky miniature golf course within your office, lobby or work area. Charge each person to play and award a prize to the player with the lowest score. Flag each hole with a fact about the CFC.

**Food Drive/School Supplies** - Conduct a food drive or collect school supplies for needy children as a part of your campaign. This is a great way for people to participate who may feel like they can't afford payroll deduction or a monetary gift.

**Vacation Day** - Employees "buy" a vacation day. When an employee chooses to participate, their wages from the day's work are deducted from their paycheck. The organization may choose to match the amount deducted, with all proceeds donated to the community. Win-win situation: the organization achieves high participation, the employees get a vacation day, and the community is helped.

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**Baby/Pet Picture Match Game** - Invite employees to try their luck matching baby and/or pet pictures of management. Award the entry with the most right answers, a paid day off or some other fun incentive. Charge employees \$5 per ballot.



### **Win Time Off**

Get management approval to offer time off to employees who give.

**Greeting Card Sales** - Have your Creative Department design various greeting cards (Congratulations, Birthday, Thank you, Anniversary, and personalized) and sell them with proceeds benefiting the Big Sky CFC. Have a contest between different departments to see which can sell the most! Give prizes on Kickoff Day.

**Bowl-a-thon** - Employees pay a \$5 entrance fee to participate in this event. Give each participant a pledge sheet in advance to use when asking other employees for their support. Make the outing more fun by hosting some agency children, too.



### **Casual Day**

Sell "casual day" badges allowing employees purchasing them to dress casually on certain days. Employees purchase badges for \$5 each. The badges carry an expiration date, depending on the amount donated.

Designate certain casual days as "crazy days" and encourage your employees to show their wild side.

**CEO Car Wash** - Employees donate \$5 to have their car washed at high noon by their "boss." Charge for Polaroid photos of the employees and the boss washing their cars. Charge extra for special services such as interior cleaning and polishing tire rims.

**Shortest Tie Contest** - Executives participate in an all-day contest to end the day with the shortest tie. Employees pay to cut an inch off their favorite executive's tie, the ugliest or most ties, etc. Shop resale stores for ties!



**Balloon Pop** - Employees donate prizes for this event - a variation of a traditional raffle. Before filling a balloon with helium, put a note inside with the name of a prize. Employees pay \$1 to buy a balloon and pop it to find out what prize they've won. Include a CFC fact in each balloon.

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**Employee Cookbook** - Collect and group recipes and household hints into a customized cookbook. Have employees' children create illustrations for the cover and categories. Print books in-house or by a local business, pro bono. This has been so popular that some organizations have not been able to fill all requests. Plan for an enthusiastic response.

**Tours** - Many of our agencies invite companies to tour their facilities. Tours give employees the opportunity to see, first hand, how their contributions are being used to find solutions for people.

**Chili Cook-Off Day** - Serve a few different styles of chili, cooked by your employee "chefs". The Cookoff Champ is the recipe that sells the most bowls.

**Scrambled Eggs and United Way** - Organize an employee pitch-in breakfast to benefit the Big Sky CFC. Ask your management staff to serve the employee donated food. It is typically worth the cost of the ticket price alone!



**Shave the Boss** - Have the CEO challenge his staff, "if we make our goal, you can shave my head!" and bring an antique barber chair into the office. Employees take turns shaving his head as customers look on. An alternative could be to shave off his mustache or beard.

**Paycheck "Pocket Change"** - For a period of time, employees donate any change above an even dollar from their paychecks.

**Spelling Bee** - Organize a spelling bee with participants paying an entry fee. Have other employees pay to place bets on the winner. Award the winners with a special incentive.



**Coin War** - Set up large, empty bottles for each department or floor in the cafeteria. Have employees drop their spare change into the bottle. Coins are positive, while paper money is negative. Employees can sabotage other bottles by dropping paper money into them. The department with the most money in their bottle wins, with the money going to the Big Sky CFC.

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**Executive Chair Race** - Set up a relay course for executives to go through, either sitting in a chair or on tricycles. Let observers bet on their favorite contestant.



**Mini Indy 500** - Rent or borrow remote-controlled cars and set up an "Indy 500" race. Use office supplies to make the track more interesting. Teams can be sponsored to compete. Spectators can place bets on their favorite team or car.

**Lunch Box Auction** - Have employees create gourmet lunches to be auctioned off to the highest bidder. Give prizes for the most creative, nutritious, elegant or humorous.

**Karaoke Party** - Have participants pay to enter the contest or pay to have company executives sing the song of their choice. Have costumes and props available.

**Additional Ideas:** Live or Silent Auction, Trivial Pursuit/Chess/Scrabble Contest, Food or Clothing Drive, Scavenger Hunt, Kiss the Pig/Donkey Contest or Pie in the Face Contest.

## Themes

Big Sky CFC Cookie Caper - Use the slogan "Big Sky CFC Cookie Caper: Help us Bring in the Dough." Each pledge card is passed out with a cookie and the slogan.



Wild West Theme - This works well as a kick-off event. Employees dress in western clothes and tacos are served. Use a cactus as your thermometer.

**Need more theme ideas? Try some of these slogans.**



- Paint a bright tomorrow
- Caring is Sharing
- Caring Hearts Build Hope\*
- Build a Caring Community\*
- Capture the Spirit
- Touch a Life
- The Power of You\*
- Show Your Heart, Do Your Part

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### Prizes and Incentives

- Departmental pizza party 
- CFC misc. incentive items
- Discount Card from local vendors
- Lottery tickets
- Reserved parking spaces
- Company promotional items
- A traveling trophy that goes to the department with the highest participation
- Insert "thank you" notes with paychecks or pay stubs
- "Sleep in Late" awards
  
- Movie or video passes 
- Open soda machine