

FUNdraising Ideas

Decide that this is the year to have “fun” by using “special events” and other creative activities in your organization’s campaign. Special events are FUN and are also an excellent method of raising CFC awareness in your office.

CFC regulations (5 CFR Part 950.602[b]) states “special events,” such as raffles, lotteries, auctions, bake sales, carnivals, athletic and other types of events are permitted if approved by the appropriate Agency Head, consistent with agency ethics regulations. In all special events, “the donor must have the option of designating to a specific participating organization or federation or be advised that the donation will be counted as an undesignated contribution...”

Review the guidelines listed below, discuss your plan with your agency team or call the CFC Office...and GO FOR IT!

DO THIS!!

Do check out your ideas with your agency head!!

DO something different to bring interest to your campaign.

DO solicit services, items from your co-workers.

DO use a special event to focus attention on the campaign—not as the total campaign effort.

DO use special events as frosting on the cake—to help you meet and exceed your “stretch” goal.

DO tie special events, where appropriate, to completed pledge cards...and encourage the use of payroll deduction.

DON'T DO THIS!!

DON'T surprise your boss with a golf tournament on company time!

DON'T do “the same old thing.”

DON'T solicit items or services from outside businesses, whether or not they are actual vendors of your agency.

DON'T overlook the tried and true elements of a successful campaign (e.g., person-to-person contact, etc).

DON'T forget that the “cake” is a solid, well-planned employee solicitation campaign.

DON'T encourage employees to participate with small cash donations...encourage payroll deduction!

EVENTS, PARTIES, KICKOFFS, PICNICS, etc.

The following ideas can be used to one degree or another to add FUN to your campaign. You may also use these ideas to get your creative juices flowing about other events that may be fun to do in your organization.

DON'T use these ideas as your primary method of raising funds. The best way of raising funds is through person-to-person contact, encouraging payroll deduction pledges.

WHO'S HUNGRY?

Many organizations like to have kickoff events, such as a continental breakfast, to open their campaigns. This is a great time for the agency head, and senior leadership, to endorse the CFC and talk about upcoming campaign activities. Your breakfast can include a formal CFC group meeting (to include passing out pledge cards), with speakers, campaign video, etc.

ALL-HANDS MEETING (i.e., organization-wide meeting, commander's call, etc)

Can you make this event a little more fun with CFC? Add food, an interesting presentation by co-workers who have been touched by CFC agencies and a raffle at the end (if legal in your organization)...simple prizes, no monetary or expensive prizes.

FOOD, FUN...ANTS?

Why not hold an annual (or special) picnic...make it a CFC affair. Invite your Director to speak...Hold fundraising activities during the picnic and collect pledge cards at the end.

MUSIC MAKERS

If your staff is blessed with musicians, let them donate their talents to an internal CFC Kickoff rally for your organization.

PROGRESSIVE LUNCHEON

One creative federal agency sponsored an all-hands potluck lunch where the employees received part of their lunch in each of five conference rooms. Participating CFC agencies provided interesting displays in each room.

AUCTIONS/SALES

It's not art, but..."

LUNCH BOX AUCTION

Employees supply lunches to be auctioned off (for a completed pledge card). Give prizes for the most creative or elegant lunches.

EXECUTIVE AUCTION

Ask the executive staff to donate two hours to CFC. Then auction each executive off to the employees. The executive must take over the employee's job for two hours.

CARRY MY MAIL!

Get a willing Postal manager or supervisor in a Station or Area Office to carry a route. Determine the most interesting and challenging routes (hills, dogs, weather!) and bid with pledge cards.

HOME-GROWN AUCTION

Employees donate items for auction such as cakes, cookies, a parking spot for a week, a weekend at their summer cabin, or a home-cooked dinner. Services such as lawn mowing for two weekends, and wallpapering also may be auctioned.

BALLOON-O-GRAMS

Encourage employees to send one another special messages in helium balloons delivered by Keyworkers. A fun way to raise morale, brighten the office and make a little extra money for CFC at \$1 per balloon.

COOKBOOK SALES

Have employees donate recipes and put them together in a cookbook. Give away samples of food while selling the cookbooks for completed pledge cards.

WHITE ELEPHANT SALE

Ask all employees to bring their most interesting—and useless—treasures. Auction off to folks using pledge cards. Got an Elvis-on-black-velvet you could donate?

FOOD FOR THE MASSES

Never under-estimate the power of food, "the way to a donor's heart"!

- Bake sale
- Pie-eating contest
- Lunch-time tacos, chili or spaghetti
- Pancake Feed
- Lunchtime Barbecue
- Popcorn at the Group Meeting
- Popcorn every Friday while Keyworkers collect pledge cards
- Oktoberfest theme—sausage lunches

CONTESTS

“Better odds than the football pool”

UGLY TIE OR HAT CONTEST

Executive staff members wear their ugliest ties or hats and solicit “votes” (a vote is \$1) from employees. The person with the most votes at the end of the day wins the prize.

A variation of this contest is volunteer staff members wear their ugliest tie or hats and solicit votes (pledge cards) from employees. The person with the most pledges at the end of the day wins the prize.

MATCH THE BABY FACE CONTEST

Employees bring photos of themselves as babies. Other employees buy ballots (with pledge cards) listing the photos by number and guess which baby is who. A prize goes to the employees who identifies the most babies.

LOOK-A-LIKE CONTEST

Employees dress up like famous personalities such as Marilyn Monroe, James Brown, or Madonna. Employees pay (by pledge card) to vote on the best costume. The contestant receiving the most votes gets a prize.

KISS THE PIG CONTEST

Executive staff members collect one-dollar votes all day. The executive with the fewest votes at the end of the day kisses a pig in front of the entire office.

MOST HUMOROUS PHOTO CONTEST

Employees bring humorous photos to work. Employees vote with quarters for the funniest. The winning photographer gets a prize. *Variations of this idea could be the best nature photo, best action photo, etc.*

PENNY JAR

A great idea for adjacent departments. Each department has a jar and each penny equals a point. Anything else equals its value in negative points. For example, a dime is minus 10 points. The department with the most positive points at the end of a week (or two) wins a prize. *It is not uncommon for individuals in one department to drop nickels, dimes, quarters, half-dollars, and paper bills into the other department’s jar to increase that department’s negative points.*

COMPETITION WORKS!

Get your best cooks out to show their stuff. Chili, chocolate chip cookies, ice cream—it doesn’t matter! Tie in a lunch and contest with a group meeting—and let your folks share their accomplishments. Let people vote for the best in each category and award simple prizes...or create a traveling trophy. Pass out and collect pledge cards at the group meeting.

SPORTS EVENTS

“For all kinds of office athletes”

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Work with a nearby golf course to get reduced rates. Charge players the regular price with proceeds going to CFC. Humorous prizes can be handed out later at a potluck dinner (i.e., shortest drive, highest score, etc.).

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. *(This game may also be set up so that the entry fee is the employee's completed pledge card).*

TUG-OF-WAR

Have employees compete against the executive staff...or have inter-departmental competitions.

SLAM DUNK CONTEST

Charge a fee to compete and provide a prize for the winner.

TEAM SPORTS COMPETITIONS

Form teams between departments, divisions, branches or regions and get pledges for goals scored, baskets made, etc. Provide refreshment stands.

PING PONG-A-THON

Charge an entry fee and have team elimination. Award winning team with a prize.

BOWLING TOURNAMENT

Get a bowling alley to reduce normal fees. Charge participants the regular price with proceeds going to CFC. participants can get pledges for the number of pins knocked down.

OFFICE HURDLES

Set up an office obstacle course in the lunchroom, several offices, several floors of offices, or outside. One station can be for typing a couple of paragraphs, another station for filing, another for photocopying, etc. The contestants pay an entry fee...the winner gets the prize.

CFC OLYMPICS

Participants pay to compete in events such as “the briefcase throw,” the computer “disk-us” toss and a basketball shoot-out using wadded pieces of paper. Award “medals” to event winners.

CHAIR RACE

Set up a race course for the employees to maneuver while racing in their chairs (with wheels). Use a stopwatch to time contestants or have them race head-to-head. Observers “wage” on their favorite with proceeds going to the campaign.

BIKE-A-THON

Charge an entry fee. Participants collect pledges for the number of miles they ride.

FUN RUN

Charge an entry fee to compete and provide a prize for the winner.

TENNIS OR RAQUETBALL TOURNAMENTS

Charge admission and an entry fee to participants. The winner gets a prize.

SUPER HOOP

Have an organized basketball tournament with employee teams. Charge admission to the game. Give away prizes at halftime. Get a local radio station (or a talented employee) to emcee.

AEROBIC-A-THON

Employees get pledges for the length of time participating. Set this up during lunch hour or after work in the employee lunchroom.

WALK-A-THON

Employees get pledges for distances walked.

OTHER FUNdraISING IDEAS

“Almost anything goes”

COMPLIMENT-O-GRAM

Make up special forms and sell them to employees as an anonymous way to give a compliment to someone in the office. A trustworthy employee sworn to secrecy must deliver compliment-o-grams. Charge a dollar per compliment.

CAR WASH

Employees pay to get their cars washed in the parking lot during the workday.

DUNK TANK

Set up a dunk tank in the parking lot. Have executives take turns on the “hot seat.” Charge a dollar per try.

SOAK THE BOSS

Employees pay 50 cents per wet sponge to throw at an executive and other senior staff volunteers.

DRESS DOWN FOR CFC

Employees pay a dollar to wear casual clothes on a specific workday during the campaign. Each employee who participates gets a small token or prize.

TREASURE HUNT

Sell daily clues to a mystery location where a treasure is hidden. The first employee to guess the location wins the treasure.

EXECUTIVE SHOE SHINE

The organization’s senior leadership set up a shoe shine stand in a heavy traffic area...and shine employees’ shoes for a CFC donation.

UGLY WAITER/WAITRESS CONTEST

A Veterans Affairs Medical Center holds this contest in their cafeteria every year. Doctors and managers dress up in the worst possible clothing and carry employees’ lunch trays to their tables for a tip and vote for the ugliest waitperson. Many contestants are not recognizable at first, and all have fun with this idea. You raise money, have lots of fun, and create visibility for the campaign.

MAKE DVD MOVIES AVAILABLE

An employee puts an announcement on a personal web site that movies from his or her entire DVD collection are available during the campaign period. A listing of movie titles is also provided. If people wish to donate something for using the movies, the proceeds go to the CFC.

THEMES

“Things to rally around”

The Big Sky CFC’s campaign theme is “Be a Star in Someone’s Life.” We recommend that organizations develop a sub-theme that fits your particular audience and mission. A few ideas are shown below. Please share your great ideas with the CFC Office!

Use your agency’s language. Use what you already have: “energy,” “wildlife,” “treasury,” “justice,” “transportation,” “agriculture,” “environment,” “aviation,” etc.

THE BIG SHOT

As a variation on the standard thermometer chart to monitor your organization’s progress, use a hypodermic needle design. Great for hospital campaigns.

SHOOT FOR THE STARS

Be a star--give to CFC. Use a star as a progress chart. Fill in with photos of donors or with stars; give out gold star to donors. Create a “constellation of giving.”

CFC COOKIE CAPER

Each pledge card is passed out with a cookie and the slogan “CFC Cookie Caper—Help Bring in the Dough.” Your campaign progress chart can be a large chocolate chip cookie where each chip reflects the achievement of \$1, 000 (or smaller/larger increments, depending upon the size of your organization).

CFC WORKS FOR ME

Advertise the opportunity for employees to write personal statements on a large

poster board in the break-room or lobby. Share their messages through your email system. You will be amazed at how many of your colleagues are currently being served by CFC-supported agencies. This makes it “real” for everyone.

SPRUCE UP YOUR CAMPAIGN

Use a Blue Spruce tree poster as a progress chart instead of the standard thermometer. Attach pinecones as achievement markers.

MANAGER’S TIE PROGRESS CHART

This is not a theme idea, but it’s something you might consider doing instead of using the tired old thermometer chart in the lobby.

Ask one or two of your senior leaders to wear a tie on which are painted various stages of campaign progress, starting from the bottom. As each dollar level is met, the project officer cut soff a new piece of the boss’ tie! Hold a mass meeting to make the final “cut” as you reach your 200% “stretch” goal mark!!