

5 Fundraising Ideas for Youth Groups

1. Sunday Collection

If you are planning a trip – a mission trip, a trip to General Assembly, etc. – or other large event, see if it would be possible to have an offertory from a Sunday service dedicated to your event. Some congregations will do a second collection specifically for the event, others will designate their regular collection for that purpose, and others will “share the plate” meaning that whatever is collected, half will go to the congregation and half to the project. If you can, see if someone from your group can speak during the service about your event. If it is an annual trip, stories about the impact of last year’s event can also be helpful.

2. Bake Sale

A tried and true method of raising funds. Will your congregation allow you to set up during coffee hour, or during that evening event in the middle of the week? What about some other special event? Decide whether you will sell snacks for people to grab and eat right there (cookies, brownies) or larger items to bring home (pies, breads). Task each member with bringing an item for the sale, or you can bake together as a group. Tip: people with food allergies appreciate when the ingredients are available to view. Make cards for the table that list what is in each item.

3. Parents’ Night Out

Are there a number of families with small children in your congregation? Do members of your group enjoy babysitting? Schedule a night where parents can drop off their children at the congregation and the youth group (and some adult volunteers) can provide babysitting, complete with games and activities. The kids have a good time, the parents can have a night out to enjoy or run errands at a cost much lower than hiring a babysitter, and the youth group raises funds.

4. Dinner for Two Raffle/Auction

Decide ahead of time what you will make that can be easily frozen - lasagna seems to be a favorite. Identify a delivery day (or, if you are being adventurous, several options) and let the bidding / ticket selling begin. You will want to decide ahead of time how many you are willing to make. Alternatively, you could also figure out what your materials costs are, and simply set a price and sell them.

5. Holiday Sales

Whether it is crafts, buttons, shirts, or those mason jars of cookie mix and soup mix, your group likely has the ability to create something that would be in demand. Cookie mixes and soup mixes are usually quite popular, as people can buy multiples to then give as gifts. If you are concerned about making too many or not enough, take pre-orders and then promise a delivery date.

