

Stall Ideas: Creative ideas for Fundraising Groups attending community events

A common event that many Fundraising Groups will undertake is holding a stall at a local community event, such as a summer fayre, Christmas lights switch on activities, or community carnivals.

Fundraising Groups typically hold raffles or tombolas at these events but are frequently looking for ideas to stand out from other Charities at what can be very busy events.

At these events, attendees are typically attracted to stalls that have an activity that would be suitable for all the family, eye catching or unusual, fun and quick to take part in.

The following pages will give your group some ideas of activities that you might like to run. If you also have any other ideas or have seen some activities at events that you have attended, please do share these ideas with your community fundraiser as this guide can be updated.

Stall Fundraising Ideas

- 1. Human Fruit Machine**
- 2. Play Your Cards Right**
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- 5. 100 squares**
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- 7. Guess the weight/number of**

Human Fruit Machine

This is a great activity for a local village fete. It is simple, easy to understand and lots of fun.



How does it work?

With a normal fruit machine, competitors pay to try to match winning lines of fruit or images for a cash prize. With a human fruit machine the same principle applies except the fruits are randomly pulled out from a box or a sack. When a member of the public takes a go, the operators will randomly take one of 3 pieces of fruit from the box or sack and pop out their hand to show the selection. If all three fruits match, a prize is won. Stands generally charge a set amount for a number of goes to win a prize (for example 50p for 3 goes). You can also stipulate that if they win during any of those tries that is the end of their attempt. If you type 'human fruit machine' in youtube you will see many videos showing how much fun it can be.

What prizes are given?

As this is a low entry price game, basic prizes would be sufficient. As this is a game that all family members could get involved with, make sure that you have a range of prizes.

Sweets, chocolate or fruit are good prize ideas. You could ask local businesses and shops for donations of prizes so that no costs are involved.

What costs are involved?

There should be minimum costs involved with this activity.

You could speak to a local greengrocers or supermarket to ask for fruit to be donated. You would need 3 pieces of each fruit. Plastic fruit could also be used so that you could reuse this if running the event multiple times.

Seek donations for prizes from local businesses too.

There may be small costs associated with materials for making the stand look eye catching (using boxes, cardboard or wood to make a screen for the event). However, this may be able to be made with materials from around the home. If you want it to be more fun you can make the machine as elaborate as you like by adding buttons, levers and hooters but it can also be as simply as pulling from a bucket, box or sack.

How many volunteers are needed?

Ideally you would need 3 volunteers to be the human fruit machine to make it fair for those taken part, however if you are short of volunteers 2 can be used with 1 person drawing 2 pieces of fruit.

Play Your Cards Right

This is an eye catching activity, which is simple to run.



How does it work?

The aim of the activity is to get from left to right across 5 large playing cards by guessing if the card is higher or lower than the previous. Players are charged a set amount for a go (say 50p) and win a prize if they get to the end of the row correctly.

If a family want to play together you can even make this a group game and whoever gets the most guesses right could win a prize.

You can make the stall each catching with signs such as roll up, roll up or make a board to place the cards on. Alternatively you can simply use a table and have the cards lay out.

What prizes are given?

As this is a low entry price game, basic prizes would be sufficient. As this is a game that all family members could get involved with, make sure that you have a range of prizes.

Sweets and chocolate are good prize ideas. You could ask local businesses and shops for donations of prizes so that no costs are involved.

What costs are involved?

There should be minimum costs involved with this activity.

You would need to have a large pack of playing cards, which you may be able to get donated.

Seek donations for prizes from local businesses too.

There may be small costs associated with materials for making the stand look eye catching (using boxes, cardboard or wood to a stand). However, this may be able to be made with materials from around the home.

How many volunteers are needed?

Two volunteers would be ideal, one to run the activity and one to take money/give prizes. However, you can run this activity with just one volunteer.

Craft Stands

Do members of your group or the local community have a creative nature? If so, simply selling handmade crafts may be for you.



How does it work?

You may want to theme the items you are selling to create a focal point for your stall or you could have a variety of homemade items such as the Boston Fundraising Group pictured above.

You would set a price for each item and it is best practice to display this on the stand. Think about the type of event and item and how much someone may be willing to pay.

If you don't have the time or are not creative then you could ask local groups or volunteers from the community to help. For example, local knit and natter groups may like to donate items they make.

What could we sell?

Some examples that other Fundraising Groups have sold include: cards, bags, sweet jars, Christmas decorations, hats, Easter Egg holders, jewellery.

If you are planning on selling homemade food products, please speak to your community fundraiser about this so that we can check any health and safety regulations.

What costs are involved?

There will be cost involved in the materials for making the items. You could ask local businesses to donate the materials.

How many volunteers are needed?

These stalls can be run with as little as one volunteer, however you may want to seek an additional volunteers to help with set up/take down and to offer a break depending on the length of the event.

Hoopla

This is a popular active attraction that can often be found at village events.



How does it work?

A number of prizes are positioned on the floor on blocks/a stand or on a table and participants are given a hoop to throw at the prize. The aim is to get the hoop over the prize which they then win.

You would typically charge someone a set amount for a number of attempts (for example £1 for 3 goes). If they don't get the hoop over a prize then they don't win.

Wooden hoops can be used or some charities have used glow in the dark glowsticks and made them into a hoop. You can often find a pack of these at pound shops or online for not much money.

What prizes are given?

Bottles, soft toys or sweets are good prizes for these activities. It is a good idea to have a range of prizes as individuals will then select one that appeals most to them.

What costs are involved?

There should be minimum costs involved with this activity.

You would need to source hoops, but these could be donated.

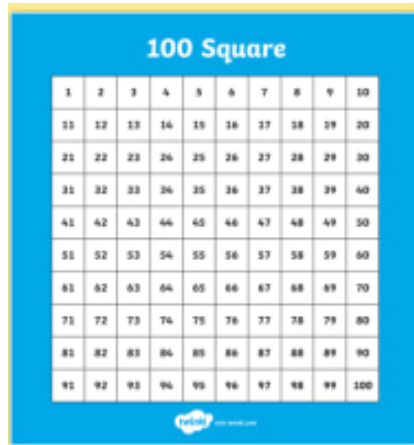
A wide variety of prizes would be needed and you may want to have spare to replenish ones that have been won if the event is for a full day. It is recommended to ask members of your community or businesses for donations.

How many volunteers are needed?

Two volunteers would be ideal, one to run the activity and one to take money/give prizes. The second volunteer would also be able to talk to anyone waiting to get involved.

100 Squares

This is a very simple fundraising idea that can be run in a variety of ways.



How does it work?

People make a donation (usually 50p or £1) and pick an available number and write their name on the sheet (you would need to record their contact details elsewhere if a public event where people may not stay around for the whole event when the winner is selected).

At the end of the event or when the sheet is full a winner is randomly selected. It is an idea to either have a section at the bottom of the page that can't be seen with a number already selected or to ask someone that is not involved in the activity to pick a random number. Alternatively, there are now number generators online which will pick a random number.

As well as numbers, the sheets can be used with names to name the bear. This could be a themed bear to the event that you are at.

What prizes are given?

Only one prize is needed.

Typically a soft toy is good if aiming at children at a community event.

If you are at a high end event you could charge more for the squares if you had a valuable prize (for example £5 or £10 per square for the chance to win a weekend at a cottage or sporting tickets).

What costs are involved?

There are many free printable resources online to get the 100 square template and a prize can be donated. Therefore there is likely to be no costs involved other than printing which your community fundraiser may be able to help with.

How many volunteers are needed?

One or two volunteers would be enough to run this activity.

Bottle or Jam Jar Stall

These activities are a great twist to a traditional tombola.



How does it work?

Your stand will be set up with a various jars or bottles filled with different items. For jars, you could look at adding sweets, teabags, small toys. But you could make it as mixed as you like by adding a hat, tie or even a pair of tights. If using bottles you could have some that are wine (you would need to have a none alcoholic alternative to offer), and some could simply have water in. For the bottles you might want to wrap them up in paper so that you can't tell the prize.

It is interesting for the individuals having a go as you will never know what you will get.

Similar to a traditional tombola you would label the jars or bottles with raffle ticket numbers say ending in a 5 or 0 and then allow the participant to take 3 or 5 tickets for 50p or £1. If they get a winning ticket they win the prize.

What prizes are given?

The prize is the item in the jar or bottle. See above for prize ideas.

What costs are involved?

We would recommend that you ask the local community, friends, family and neighbours for donations of prizes or empty jars and bottles. If completing a bottle stall the local community or businesses may donate bottles of wine too. It is a good idea to ask for these items in advance and collect them over a few months to make sure you have enough. Local cafes may have empty jars too.

This would keep your costs to zero.

How many volunteers are needed?

Two volunteers would be ideal, one to run the activity and one to take money/give prizes. The second volunteer would also be able to talk to anyone waiting to get involved.

Guess the weight/number of

This is a great fundraising idea that does not need much work in advance.



How does it work?

People make a donation (£1 is a good suggestion) to guess the number of items in a jar (such as sweets or why not make it a daffodil jar) or the weight of an item (such as a cake).

It is best to have a list with a range of numbers or weight that includes the correct answer. You would need to obtain the individuals name and contact details. At the end of the event your stall is at, you would contact the winner and arrange for them to collect the prize.

Make sure that someone knows how many items are in the jar and it is suggested they write this in a sealed envelope.

What prizes are given?

Only one prize is needed.

Typically they would win the item they are guessing if it is a jar of sweets or a cake. If you are running a guess the number of daffodils stand, then you would need to source a prize that people could win. This could be donated by a local company.

What costs are involved?

No costs are involved if you get the sweets, jar or cake donated. You may have a local cake maker in your community or bakery that would be willing to make the donation, or someone in your group might be a keen baker.

How many volunteers are needed?

One or two volunteers would be enough to run this idea. Often groups might run this activity alongside other fundraising on a stall, for example if they are selling craft items.

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