

10 TIPS ON HOW TO WIN AT FUNDRAISING

Certainly! Effective fundraising—whether as a school, individual, or team requires planning, communication, and creativity. Below are <u>10</u> detailed tips to help you fundraise successfully, each tailored to ensure practical application and maximum impact.

Set Clear, Measurable Goals
Why: People are more likely to
contribute when they know
exactly what they're supporting
and what the target is.
How:

Define a specific fundraising goal (e.g., \$5,000 for new team uniforms).

Break down where funds will go
—transparency builds trust.

Display a visual progress
tracker (like a fundraising
thermometer) on your website,
social media and gathering
room to show momentum.

Know Your Audience

Why: Tailoring your message to the interests of your target donors leads to better engagement.

How:

Identify key supporters (parents, alumni, local businesses, etc.).

Customize your message: For example, emphasize educational benefits to parents, community engagement to local businesses.

Use surveys or informal conversations to find out what motivates your audience to give.

Create a Compelling Story
Why: Stories connect
emotionally, which drives
donations more than facts or
logic.

How:

Share personal stories,
testimonials, or outcomes—
e.g., "This robotics club helped
Alex get a college scholarship."
Use photos, short videos, or
quotes to make it relatable and
human-centered.
Keep the message consistent
across all platforms—flyers,
websites, social media.

Use Multi-Channel Marketing
Why: Reaching people through
various platforms increases
visibility and donations.
How:

Combine email, social media, flyers, school newsletters, local news outlets, and community bulletin boards.

Schedule posts consistently (e.g., "Fundraising Friday Updates").

Encourage team members or students to repost or share content to reach wider networks.

Make It Easy to Donate

Why: The more steps it takes to give, the more people drop off.

How:

Use the trusted online donation platform My Fundraising Place.

Include QR codes on flyers/posters linking to your selling/donation page.

Set up contactless payment options for in-person events or collections.

Offer Value or Incentives
Why: People love to feel like
they're getting something in
return, even if it's small.
How:

Offer perks: branded merchandise, shout-outs, or small prizes.

For schools or teams: create fundraising tiers (e.g., \$25 = thank you card, \$100 = name on banner).

Friendly competition can fuel amazing results. Have rewards/metals for top sellers or donors. Even a goal of a group rewards, ex. pizza party, movie day etc.

<u>Leverage Peer-to-Peer</u> <u>Fundraising</u>

Why: You multiply your efforts when others fundraise on your behalf.

How:

Ask students, teammates, or supporters to create their own mini-campaigns under your main one.

Provide pre-written messages, graphics, and talking points so they can share on social media easily.

Track which peer groups raise the most to add a layer of friendly competition.

Partner with Local Businesses
Why: This taps into existing
community support and
increases your credibility.
How:

Ask businesses to sponsor your cause in exchange for advertising (e.g., logo on shirts or banners, cross advertisement). Collaborate on fundraising events (e.g., a "dine-to-donate", athletic event sponsoring the fundraiser&business). Offer mutual promotion feature them on your site/socials if they help your campaign.

Track and Celebrate Progress
Why: Recognition keeps
sellers/donors engaged and
encourages future giving.
How:

Send thank-you emails or handwritten notes after each sell/donation.

Highlight top donors or supporters publicly (with permission).

Celebrate milestones on social media ("We've reached \$1,000 thanks to YOU!").

<u>Conduct a Post-Campaign</u> <u>Review</u>

Why: Evaluating what worked or didn't improves future fundraising.

How:

Analyze which strategies sold the most product or got the most engagement.

Get feedback from your team and donors through surveys or

Document best practices and lessons learned in a shared file for future campaigns.

meetings.

BONUS TIP

Start Early and Be Consistent
Many campaigns fail because
they start too late or lose steam
halfway through. Plan well in
advance, build in small weekly
action items, and maintain
momentum with updates and
community involvement.
Would you like a downloadable
checklist or template to help
you organize your campaign?