



101 Fundraising Ideas from the Orange County MS Society

1. Jellybean count: Fill a jar with jellybeans and have people pay to guess how many there are in the jar.
2. Dress-down day: If you work in a corporate office, have a day in which all the employees can wear casual clothes. Charge each employee who wants to participate. Make certain that you ask permission of your HR Department first.
3. Band and choir concerts: Ask a school band or choir to donate their time by performing a benefit concert for your cause. Charge admission for the event.
4. Walkathon: Choose a date and a route, make up some pledge forms, and advertise with posters. Have everyone who wants to participate gather donations or pledges using their pledge forms.
5. Bag groceries: Ask a local grocery store if you can bag people's groceries for donations. Be certain to put up a sign saying what the donation is for.
6. Skip-a-thon: Choose a date, make up pledge forms, and advertise with posters. Have everyone who wants to participate gather donations or pledges using their pledge forms, then skip.
7. Raffles: Sell tickets and keep ticket stubs. On the date of the draw, have someone close his or her eyes and pick a ticket stub from all the ones that were sold. Do this publicly. The winner receives a prize.
8. Auction: Have individuals, groups and businesses donate goods and services. Be creative in what you can auction off and make certain that the goods and services are sold at reasonable prices.
9. Perform a free service for donations: Rake leaves, shovel snow, take care of a pet. When offering your service, ask the person who benefited from your actions for a donation toward your worthy cause.
10. Sell candy or cards: Work with reputable businesses that provide merchandise you can sell. Be sure at least half of the money raised goes to your cause.
11. Winter carnival: Hold a winter carnival in your local park or schoolyard. Invite students, staff, and the community. Charge admission and/or a small fee to play games.
12. Carnival day: Host a mini-carnival, with games, prizes and popcorn, in a local park or your own backyard. Charge admission and/or a small fee to play games.
13. Spelling bee: Look through some books or in the dictionary and come up with a list of words of increasing difficulty. Have participants and spectators pay to participate.
14. Battle of the bands: Gather some bands from your local community. Book a venue and advertise with posters, flyers, and radio announcements. Hold a mini-concert in which the audience chooses the winning band.
15. Pitch-a-thon: Rent a radar gun and measure how fast people can throw a baseball or kick a soccer ball. Charge \$1 per try and give a prize to the fastest individual.



16. Sell buttons or t-shirts displaying your logo: Create a logo, and then make up a whole bunch of t-shirts, buttons, pens, or other gifts with your logo on them. Sell the items at a reasonable price.
17. Puppet show: Make puppets with socks, felt and other craft materials. Pick out or write a story. Set a date, time, and location. Advertise with flyers and posters. Sell tickets in advance and at the door.
18. Spaghetti dinner: Prepare a great dinner for friends, family, or community members and charge a fee.
19. Hold a theme party: Decide on a fun theme. Charge an entrance fee, but be sure to explain to people what their cover charge is going towards.
20. Newsletter: Create a newsletter informing your peers and members of your community about your organization or cause. Sell the newsletter for a small fee. Be sure to provide information about how people can become involved and/or donate to your cause.
21. Plant a tree: ask a nursery for seedling donations and then get people to sponsor a tree.
22. Pledges: Gather pledges to have dance-a-thons, rock-a-thons, or any other type of endurance contest you can think of.
23. Day of community service: Gather together a group of friends, and contact a number of organizations for which you would be interested in volunteering. Then have people sponsor you to do community service for 24 hours.
24. Food fast: Get together with a group of friends, gather pledges, and fast for a full 24 hours.
25. Piñata contest: Charge a fee to have each blindfolded person have one turn at trying to break a candy-filled piñata.
26. Craft sale: Make all the crafts yourself and sell them.
27. Geography bee: Organize a spelling bee composed of geographical names from around the world. Participants should obtain sponsors for their correct answers.
28. Family barbecue: Host a family barbecue in your backyard, with games and activities.
29. Three-on-three basketball tournament: Organize a basketball tournament with the winning team receiving a prize. This can also be done with soccer, tennis, badminton, or any other sport.
30. Swim-a-thon: Get sponsors for the number of laps you swim.
31. Beat the goalie: Pick the best hockey or soccer goalie you know and invite people to try to score a goal for a prize. Every participant has to pay to play.
32. Bingo: Host a bingo night at a local hall, place of worship, or school.
33. Plant sale: Organize a plant sale with plants donated by local nurseries.
34. Games night: Organize an evening of board games.
35. Boat race: Organize a model boat race on a body of water. Charge a participant/spectator entrance fee. The winner of the race gets a prize.



36. Fruit stand: Get permission to go to local farms and pick fruit to sell. Sell the produce in high-traffic areas or at community festivals.
37. Book sale: Ask all your friends, relatives, and teachers to donate their old books. Advertise your book sale by means of posters and flyers. Set up a table and sell books. If there are leftovers, you can always give them to a needy library, shelter, or school.
38. Bowling: Organize a bowling night or a competition. Charge everyone a small fee to enter or have participants get bowl-a-thon pledges.
39. Buy a brick: If you are fundraising to build a school or building, have people make donations to purchase bricks.
40. Petting zoo: If you live in an area in which there are farms nearby, organize a one-day petting zoo for children.
41. Coupon sale: Have coupon books donated by local businesses, and then sell them to students and adults.
42. International dinner: Have people from various ethnic origins cook traditional foods, and then charge admission to an international dinner.
43. Balloon pop: Before filling a balloon with air or helium, put a note inside. Have a certain number of the notes worth a prize. Have people buy balloons and pop them in the hope of getting the prize. Be sure to pick up the broken balloons afterwards.
44. Scavenger hunt: Set a route and make a list of items that the participants need to find in order to win. Advertise your scavenger hunt well and charge everyone a small fee to participate. The winning person/group gets a prize.
45. Car wash: With a group of friends, set up a car wash in the parking lot of your school, church, or public area. (Be sure to ask for permission and make sure that people are careful of moving cars).
46. Carol-singing: During the Christmas season, go door-to-door singing carols for donations. It is a good idea to have a card or a flyer with some brief information about your organization to give to sponsors. You may want to have an adult accompany you. Remember to respect those who do not celebrate Christmas and who may not want to hear your carols.
47. Candle making: Make candles and sell them to family members. This can be educational and fun, but be sure to exercise all safety precautions.
48. Hug-a-gram: Advertise a hug for a dollar. Have people buy a hug for a friend. After a member of your group gives the hug to the designated person, give them a small card with a message from the person who sent the hug.
49. Sporting events tickets: Ask sports teams to donate a number of seats for their games and raffle off the tickets.
50. Charity ball: Hire a DJ or a band, rent a hall, advertise, and sell tickets for a dance.
51. Christmas ornament sale: Sell Christmas ornaments during the Christmas season.



52. Classic car show: Organize a classic automobile show. Invite people to attend and to bring their cars by placing ads in local newspapers, leaving flyers at local businesses, and charging people to come and see the show.
53. Miniature golf: Build a nine-hole miniature golf course at your school, featuring ramps, water and sand traps, and other obstacles. Charge people to play a round during lunch.
54. Bench-a-thon: Have people bench press weights in the school gym and collect pledges for every kilogram they lift. This is a popular event, especially with football players. Make sure all participants have spotters to ensure safety.
55. Clearing snow: Shovel snow from people's driveways and walkways in the winter months for a donation.
56. Monopoly match: Have a group of students play a Monopoly tournament with the winner receiving a prize.
57. Guess the age of your teacher: Organize an event in which students pay to guess the age of your teacher. Obtain approval from your teacher first, however.
58. Hoopla: The competitor throws hoops over prizes. The person whose hoop completely lands over the prize gets to keep the award. Make sure you do not spend too much money on prizes.
59. Pumpkin-decorating contest: Around Halloween, hold a pumpkin-decorating contest among different grades of homerooms.
60. Debate evening: Research a number of debate issues and invite various community members to debate issues. Charge the audience to come and watch. The issues can be fun. For example, have your school principal argue that listening to music during class enhances a student's ability to learn versus a student who thinks that music should be banned from school.
61. Dog show: Invite people to show off their dogs in a show. Make it a competition that people pay to enter, and offer a prize for the best groomed dog, most- and least-obedient dog, and so on.
62. Talent auction: Auction off the talents of people. For instance, great singers offer to sing at a wedding, party, or special event.
63. Duck race: Sell numbered plastic ducks. Set all the ducks afloat in a race on a river. The person who bought the duck that wins the race gets a prize.
64. Guess the number of coins in a jar: The winner receives all the coins and your group makes money by charging people for guessing.
65. Comedy hour: Host a comedy skit during lunch at your school and charge people to attend.
66. Nacho party: Plan a morning to make nachos and popcorn, which can be sold during lunch.
67. Eating marathon: Have a pie eating, hot-dog eating, or ice cream-eating contest. You can charge people to participate or to watch, or you can make all participants obtain pledges.
68. Face painting: Have a face-painting day. Advertise in advance and then charge a small fee for painting young kids' faces during a school day or on a weekend.
69. Ugly tie contest: Have the employees come to school wearing the ugliest tie they can find. Have them vote on the worst tie with the winner receiving a prize.



70. Flower show: Invite gardeners from your community to enter their flowers in a competition for a prize. Ask volunteer experts to be judges and charge all participants and spectators a fee.
71. Calendar sale: Create a calendar highlighting the projects and members of your organization, and sell it to students and their family members.
72. Sports tournament/fitness competition: Organize a sports tournament or fitness competition. Advertise well and charge spectators to come and watch groups compete. You may need to have medical personnel on hand.
73. Crazy hat day: Have students pay a fee to wear a crazy hat to school for the day.
74. Get-out-of-jail-free card: Pay to get out of work for a day. Ask permission first.
75. Art sale: Have local artists donate some of their works, which will be displayed and then sold to the public.
76. Game show: Recreate one or more of your favorite game shows and charge contestants a small entrance fee. Sell tickets to the audience.
77. Gardening: Tend the garden of a neighbor, a local store, or community park for a donation.
78. Guest speaker: Invite a guest speaker to your home or local hall and sell admission tickets to raise funds for your cause.
79. Karaoke: Rent a karaoke machine, sell tickets or charge an admission fee, and sing all night.
80. Videos: Make and sell a video for youth tourists of places to go and cool things to do. Or create a How-To video; for example, how to improve your golf swing, or how to make crafts.
81. Mile of coin: Gather donations of coins (pennies, dimes, or quarters) and lay them side-by-side until they stretch out to be a mile long. Alternatively, surround your gym, library, or parking lot with the coins.
82. Recipe book: Gather together favorite recipes and put them together in a book. Sell the book through your school, sports organization, or community centre. Try to get the photocopying donated by local businesses.
83. Sit in a bath: Obtain sponsorship for kids to sit in a bath of something gross and out of the ordinary, such as baked beans or fruit-flavored gelatin.
84. Talent show competition: Invite people to show off their talent in a competition in which they can win a prize. Sell tickets in advance.
85. Henna hand art: Find out if any members of your group know how to apply henna (Indian hand art), which can be applied to people in your school for a fee.
86. Walk dogs: Love pets? Try walking dogs every day for a fee.
87. Toy sale: Hold a toy sale. The best season for this is just prior to Christmas.
88. Triathlon: Set a course of running, cycling, and swimming. Have participants get pledges to compete to win prizes.



89. Lemonade stand: Make lemonade, post signs, and sell it on a hot day.
90. January: Snow art contest.
91. February: Valentine's Day dance; red carnations for Valentine's Day.
92. March: St. Patrick's Day party; spring car wash.
93. April: Spring flower sale.
94. May: Mother's Day flowers sale.
95. June: Father's Day sale; end-of-school pool party (with lifeguards).
96. July: Independence Day festivities with refreshment/food booths.
97. August: End-of-summer party.
98. September: Back-to-school dance; back-to-school supplies sale.
99. October: Halloween party; pumpkin sales; Thanksgiving turkey raffle.
100. November: Remembrance Day donations.
101. December: Christmas tree sale; gift-wrapping service; New Year's Eve

Source: National MS Society (www.nationalmssociety.com)