



Fundraising

FACTSHEET

Although we try to keep our costs down and give value for money, you will need to raise funds for your trip. You may already have savings or work that will raise the money you need.

Alternatively you may want to find ways to raise money to cover the cost of volunteering with us. There are two main avenues for you to explore: grants and sponsorship, and fundraising events and activities.

Whichever you choose you need to plan your finances carefully and think about the cost of the whole trip – flights, other travel, pocket money and sightseeing.

Grants and advice

The main source of grants information and advice are publications and the Internet. Visit our website to get details of suggested publications and web links. The Directory of Social Change is a good starting point.

You should also look at gap year sites and advice pages, many have helpful budget planning advice, as well as fundraising ideas.

Events and activities

Planning your own fundraising event or activity has to be one of the most enjoyable and rewarding ways of raising money. There are so many types of event that you are sure to find something that suits you.

Like all fundraising activities, it pays to plan well in advance. Here are a couple of key points to consider:

- **Venue.** Can you get it for free? Do you know someone who owns a pub or club? If not choose a night that isn't likely to be packed and guarantee a certain number of people at the bar. Get clear permission to charge at the door.
- **Publicity.** If people don't know about your event, they won't come! Be imaginative and broaden your approach as wide as possible.
- **Success.** The best fundraising event is the one you are most likely to enjoy. Don't opt for something you hate just because it's popular.
- **Budget.** Don't let costs spiral out of control. Try to achieve at least £3 for every £1 spent. Work out your break even point and aim to pass it.
- **Timing.** Pick a date that doesn't clash with other events such as major sports events, bank holidays and school holidays.

We hope this helps and good luck

Event ideas

Beach clean-up – get sponsored for the number of bags of litter or miles of beach cleaned etc.

Canoe, hike, swim, run or bike - be creative. For example, simulate a jail break and get sponsorship for every mile you travel without using any money.

Bungee or parachute jump - watch out for the costs of daredevil stunts, they may be fun but they might not make you much money.

Sit in a bath of baked beans etc. - wacky, fun ideas are a great photo opportunity for the press.

Give up coffee or chocolate for a month - a nice simple idea to try at work.

Abstain from swearing for a month – put a swear box at work or your local pub.

Car boot sale - try to get your pitch for free.

Fete or tombola – take a stall at the village fete or organise your own. If you're organising your own it's crucial to get large numbers of people. Get prizes from local businesses and invite them along to put up a stand.

Pub quiz or karaoke evening - get some prizes, appoint a quiz master and set an entry fee per team.

Malagasy evening - put on an evening of music, food and dance for your friends.

Horse racing - you can hire the whole package. Get some prizes, get in the experts and place your bets!

Casino night - there's some initial outlay in hiring the kit and experts, but this usually proves a popular money-spinner.

Wine, beer or food-tasting - get the nosh at cost, enlist a friend who knows his stuff and away you go.

Barn dance – the venue is critical so sort it first. A good band and caller will also make things go with a 'yee-har!'. Think about spin-offs like refreshments, raffle, cabaret, side shows etc.

Sport or games tournament (five-a-side football, scrabble etc) - organise prizes and charge a registration fee.

Slave auctions, Blind Date... why not...??!!