

United Way Special Events & Incentive Ideas

FOOD ALWAYS WORKS

FOOD, FUN & PRIZES

Special Events allows you to raise additional \$\$\$ in addition to payroll deductions. Some smaller companies or non-profits may not have a budget for incentives, so take a chance and reach out to the vendors that you frequent most for gift cards, baskets, etc. If you ask, you might get a yes.

Company to Company Challenge – Reach out to your competition to increase dollars raise by certain #, percentage or some type of challenge. The losing company has to wash the car of the winning company.

Action Auction - Utilize the skills and talents of your co-workers and auction off skills or services of your staff members instead of items.

Oldest Company T-shirt Contest- Dust off those old company t-shirts and model them proudly! Charge \$3 per entry and have a fashion show to model the shirts.

Poker Walk- have 5 stations along a walking route. At each station the walkers pick up a playing card. At the end of the walk special prizes are given to those people with the best poker hand

Sodawe- Like soda? So-do-we! Set up a stand or table in your building's lobby and sell drinks to benefit United Way.

5K Walk/Run- charge a set amount for participants to enter or ask participants to get sponsors. Hand out prizes for people who raise the most amount of money.

Candy or Bake Sales - employees can bake and bring items, sell items for .50, \$1

Traveling Bake Sale/Treat Trolley - fill up a cart with baked goods and snacks and go from workspace to workspace with home-baked goods or candies - a bake sale on wheels – especially good for organizations with call centers.

Basket Auctions - each department comes up with a basket theme and employees bring in items to fill the baskets which are then auctioned. Popular themes include family movie night, game night, a day at the beach, summer reading, cooking baskets (can be baker's delight, Italian night, etc).

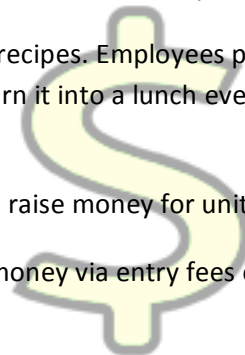
Best Appetizer Contest- employees bring in their best appetizer and compete for the best one. Employees pay \$2 to sample all the appetizers and vote on their favorite one. Cookbooks can be created with all the recipes and sold for \$5.

Cooking Contest - (Chili Cookoffs, Bakeoffs...) get your best chili chefs to test their recipes. Employees pay to taste and vote for the winner in overall taste and spiciness. Winner gets a prize. You could turn it into a lunch event by providing chips and hot dogs.

Book Fair/DVD Fair - have co-workers bring in used books or dvds and sell them to raise money for united way

Bowling For Dollars - recruit some teams and have a group bowling night, raising money via entry fees or per pin donations.

Scrabble Tournament - Have a Scrabble tournament and the number of points you score equals your pledge to United Way!



Silent Auction/Online Auction/Drawings - have employees, individuals or businesses donate prizes (college/professional football or basketball tickets, a weekend getaway, restaurant gift certificates, paid time off, etc.) and hold a silent auction or online auction with the prize going to the highest bidder. Or, offer these prizes as incentives to pledge.

Penny Wars - in penny war, two or more groups (great for depts.) compete to win a fundraising competition. Each group has a bucket for collecting coins or dollar bills. The value of any pennies collected by a group count positively toward that group's point total, while the value of other coins or dollar bills are subtracted. Hence, in a competition between Group A and Group B, a contributor who wants Group A to win will place pennies into Group A's bucket and nickels, dimes, quarters, or dollar bills into Group B's bucket.

United Way Trivial Pursuit - distribute e-mail or printed up questions about United Way and its programs every day for a week. Then ask trivia questions based on the information. Those completing all questions are entered into a drawing.

Video game tournament - set up three or four game systems in a small conference room. Employees pay to play, with prizes going to the top scorer in each game.

Pumpkin Carving Contest - obtain some pumpkins and have employees have a carving contest for Halloween & Thanksgiving holiday.

No Coffee, Coffee Days - Donate coffee or soda or snack machine money to UW.

Casual/Jeans Day - employee pay to dress down for a particular time frame or all year.

Ugly Tie, Sports Team or Stupid Hat Contest - Employees dress up in their favorite teams jerseys, hats, worst tie, outrageous socks, employee pay to vote, etc...

Coin Toss - Fill a large bottle (Poland Springs etc) with water and place a clear shot glass in bottom. Employees take turns dropping quarters in to see if they land in the shot glass. Keep in mind you need to cut the top off the bottle or you need a container or bowl (deep bowl) that you can put your hand in or pour the water off periodically to take the quarters out. Coins collected donated to UW.

Coins For The Cause/Keep the Change - UW can do big things with small change! If employees buy coffee, soda, candy and get change back they can throw their change in a bottle for UW.

Cutest Employee Baby Picture Contest - have employees pay to vote.

Identify Employees w/Baby Picture Contest- have employees pay to vote.

Cutest Employee Pet Picture Contest - have employees pay to vote.

Ice Cream Social - provide the toppings and employees pay for their favorite flavors and toppings or Bring in your pledge form and get ice cream scooped by senior management. Can also be used as a thank you for all employees.

Dunk Tank - rent a dunk tank, employee pay to have employees or executives get dunked in the tank..

Kiss The Pig - employees pay to have execs kiss the pig.

Breakfast w/The Boss- employees pay to have their favorite senior level execs serve employees at company breakfast.

UPGRADE: employees pay to have exec make them breakfast or take them out to breakfast.



Warehouse/Production Facilities Obstacle Course or Scavenger Hunt - create an obstacle course in your facilities – employees pay to see will finish 1st.

Office Olympics- set up an obstacle course in the lunchroom or a conference room. Time your contestants as they type a few paragraphs at one station, file at another, and photocopy at another station. Add in some other stations like pencil sharpening or making a paper clip chain. The contestants pay an entry fee and the winner gets a prize.

Car Wash - employees pay to have their car washed by colleagues or management. Charge an extra fee for valet service.

Year Round Engagement - if possible, have small events geared around educating employees once a month or every two months. Each department or worksite can be responsible for a monthly event.

Reinvent Popular Gameshows - Jeopardy, Family Feud build teams based on departments or worksites.

Sports Tournaments - create contest and teams utilizing everyday sports like golf, baseball, baseball, volleyball, bowling...

Vending Machines - raise the cost of vending machine items during your campaign with the difference going to United Way.

Tricycle Races - set up relay races in the parking lot, in addition to entry fees, employees are allowed to “bet” on the winner, with all money going directly to United Way. The day of the race spectators can pay to have certain teams moved forward or backward at the starting line. These races can be done with single participants or as relays to get more people involved. The races can be timed. **UPGRADE:** Executive tricycle race.

Garage Sale - have employees clean out their closets and set up a company-wide garage sale to benefit United Way.

Chair Massage - bring in a massage therapist for a day and allow all those who submit a pledge form to sit down for 5 minutes to a relaxing chair massage. Or charge a fee, with a portion of the proceeds going to the UW. This can also be used as a Thank you for employees.

Inter-Office Mini-golf - set up a mini-golf course at the workplace, using slinkies, ramps, “water hazards,” sand traps. Enter teams and have a mini-golf outing just like one on a real course!

Pot Luck Luncheons - anyone who brings a dish pays \$5 and those who don’t pay \$8 for lunch.

International Food Day - teams of employees create tasty treats from around the world. Employees decorate their own booths and dress in costumes. Hold the event at lunch, allowing employees to purchase tickets redeemable for food at the booths. Have a panel of judges award prizes.

Drawings / Prize / Incentive Ideas – for employees and departments. Sometimes the best incentives or prizes cost little or nothing at all! Here are some low-cost/no-cost items to award game winners or incent donors:

Day Off With Pay

½ Day Off With Pay

Best / Closest Parking Spot – Have drawing for 12 winners, one for each month of the year

Breakfast or Lunch With The Boss

Dress Down Days

Department Ice Cream or Pizza Party – Can be a participation competition between departments, buildings, and worksites

Lunch With The Boss & She /He Cooks or Buys

Extra ½ Hour or Hour For Lunch

In One Hour Late

Leave One Hour Early

T-shirts, hats, sweatshirts, mugs, or other company gear

Lunch Paid For By Company – For an individual or department

Half-day On Friday – Best between Thanksgiving and New Year’s or in the summer

Birthday Off

Extra Vacation Day(s)

High End Items – Trip to Mequite, Moab, Las Vegas, Denver, Flat Screen TV

Special Event Tickets – Execs may have access to theatre, game tickets...

Gift Certificates – For Restaurants, Groceries, Dinner, Movies, Gas Cards (reach out to local stores and vendors for contributions)

Lottery Tickets

Share Of Company Stock



Create friendly competition between departments or buildings

Always check with management and labor regarding prizes and incentives being offered

Always strive to educate and build awareness about United Way at all activities

For off-site events, include family and friends to increase greater participation