



National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society
Oregon Chapter

Fundraising Idea List

Start Fundraising Today!

There are several different types of fundraising activities or events which each take varying levels of time and effort. By carefully looking at your fundraising goals next to the time you have available to fundraise, you can select fundraising activities that will be fun, successful and rewarding – we promise!

Read on to get fundraising ideas straight from the pro's – your fellow Walk MS and Bike MS fundraisers! We'll cover the following

- Super Quick and Simple Fundraising Ideas
- Fairly Easy Fundraising
- More Time = More Fun

#1 Fundraising Idea of all Time

- **Ask people (yes, it's that simple!)**
Whether asking via email, mail, phone, Facebook, YouTube or in person, asking people directly is by far the easiest and most effective way to fundraise. Set goals for who you plan to ask, how and when; then hold yourself to them!

Talk to people about Walk MS or Bike MS and tell them why you participate.
ALWAYS remember to ask for them to walk/ride with you, volunteer or donate!

Have friends, family, co-workers and other donors ask on your behalf. Invite them to ask their contacts for support. It can be as simple as asking at the end of retail/business transaction "Would you like to make a donation to Walk MS/Bike MS? Your donation would go to help local individuals living with or affected by multiple sclerosis, which is a cause I care about because _____"

Fundraise \$500 in just 9 days by just asking for support!

- Day 1: Start by sponsoring yourself for \$25
- Day 2: Ask two family members to sponsor you for \$25
- Day 3: Ask five friends to contribute \$20
- Day 4: Ask five co-workers to contribute \$10
- Day 5: Ask five neighbors to contribute \$10
- Day 6: Ask five people from your church or temple to contribute \$10
- Day 7: Ask your boss for a company contribution of \$25 (Or find out if your company will match what you raise)
- Day 8: Ask five local merchants to sponsor you for \$20
- Day 9: Ask two businesses you frequent to contribute \$25
- Next Step: Increase your personal fundraising goal and try for another \$500!



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Super Quick and Simple Fundraising Ideas

Leverage Matching Gifts

- Matching gifts from your employer, your donor's employers, or your friends/family employers are a quick way to double your funds.
- Ask EVERYONE who donates to check if matching gifts are available.

Fundraise using Social Media

- Download the Fundraise with Facebook app through your online My Account
- Leverage twitter to provide updates while out on a route, tell people about a training ride, update them on where you are with your fundraising, etc.
- Post frequently
- NOTE: Not all posts have to be hard fundraising asks, consider mixing in training updates for Bike MS, or how many miles you've walked that week for Walk MS, or if you've lost weight, etc.

Paper Feet/Paper Wheel Sales

- Sell paper wheels/feet at grocery stores, gas stations, schools, banks, fast food restaurants, local pubs, your church, etc.

Pop/Soda Sale

- Offer cans of pop/soda at work for a \$1 donation
- Don't forget to ask your company about matching those cash donations!

Daily donation envelope

- Pledge yourself \$1 a day – you decide the duration!
- Ask others to do the same!

Jettison the Jitters

- Have co-workers give up coffee for a week and donate the dollars instead
Provide tea packets or cocoa powder at your desk to give people when they drop off their donations

Movie Mania (DVD Sale)

- Pool your old/unwanted videos/movies from home with other people
- Sell one movie for \$5, three for \$10, or a boxed set for \$20!

Change for Change

- Put a bucket at your desk at work (or the front desk if possible) and ask co-workers to bring in their change and donate it.
- Have co-workers empty their pockets/purse of change at the end of each day
- Provide a weekly update on your change total!



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- Have co-workers ask their friends to donate their change too!
- Don't forget to ask your company about matching those cash donations!
- Bonus vacation day competition
- Raffle off vacation days, you set the price for each entry
- Or run a competition going up to Walk MS or Bike MS: the highest fundraiser (or donor) each week earns a day off!

Spaghetti Feed

- Host friends for a spaghetti feed before a team ride, walk, or just because
- Request donations from those attending

Movie Night

- Rent a movie "on-demand", RedBox, or Netflix and have friends over to see a new release
- Request donations and provide beverages and popcorn (or have a few people bring supplies instead of donating)

Win a Wine Cellar

- Ask friends/family/co-workers and friends of friends to donate a bottle of wine
- Sell raffle tickets and raffle off the whole lot of wine at once, or break the stock into smaller sets of wine
- Sell raffle tickets for a minimum of \$10

Get Drastic

- Set a really high goal, and tell everyone you'll do something drastic (shave your head? shave your legs?) if you reach it!
- Follow-up with donors to highlight your drastic change/embarrassment (photos are encouraged)

Fairly Easy Fundraising Ideas

Book Sale

- Have friends/family/co-workers donate unwanted books
- Sell paperback books for \$1
- Sell hardback books for \$5

Jewelry Sale

- Have your friends/family pool together the jewelry not often worn
- Price pieces individually and hold a sale

Bowling Night

- Get friends together for a night at the lanes



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- Ask the bowling alley if they will donate the proceeds from the evening
- Award prizes for different categories (lowest score, highest score, most unique approach, most strikes, etc.)
- People can donate more to bowl with the bumpers up

Poker Tournament

- Donate to play
- Donate to buy back into the game when you lose it all to the house!

Host a Bingo Night/Bunco Night

- Get loud, get excited, and have a fun evening of Bingo or Bunco
- Download free Bunco score sheets, or Bingo cards online

Trivia Night

- Grab that dusty box of Trivial Pursuit and test your knowledge
- Play in teams to create friendly rivalry
- Donate per round, or per evening
- Integrate trivia questions about multiple sclerosis, or the National MS Society for extra points

Cook-off

- Whether it is a chili cookoff, macaroni & cheese cookoff, or burger cookoff, the idea is the same: have an afternoon or evening of great food and fun
- Donate to enter, and vote on the most delicious dish at the end of the meal
- Winner claims an award (something silly) that can be vied for the next year
- Make it an annual event and change the food of choice each year!

Snack Attack

- Grab a cart or a basket and bring goodies around to your co-workers during the afternoon (be sure you ask your office management if this is ok first)
- Love baking? Bring homemade items to reduce costs!
- Accept donations for goodies, or set a price
- Bonus: Give donors a badge of honor to display at their desk with each purchase – a paper foot or paper wheel

Read-a-thon

- A great fundraiser for students!
- Donate per book, per page, or per hour read
- Reader can provide updates online (may need help of parents) to let people know about their adventures reading!



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More Time = More Fun

Comedy Night

- Partner with a local comedy club to host a comedy night
- Ask if the club will give your team a percentage of the ticket sales from the evening. If the club serves food or drinks, ask about a percentage of those too.

Breakfast / Brunch / Lunch / Dinner Out

- Partner with a local restaurant to host a meal where a portion of the food and/or drink sales go towards your (or your team's) fundraising effort
- Selling point: Have the event on a less busy day, at a slower time of the day, in order to get the business more patrons that they would usually have during that time.

Ladies Night

- Ask a local hair salon to host a cut/style night where a portion of the proceeds go to your Walk MS or Bike MS team
- Get wine/crackers/cheese donated
- Selling point: The business can sell product and potentially get new clients

Golf Tournament

- Shotgun? Scramble? You decide! Partner with a local golf course for the afternoon of your life!
- Have people purchase a package of mulligans at the beginning of the day and offer a "pay per mulligan" offer during the event at a much steeper price
- Work with the course to make fundraising dollars on the cash cart, breakfast before the event, or lunch after the event and the greens fees
- If possible, get sponsors for each hole, or a few of the holes
- Be sure to request a group discount fee and have the difference go towards your fundraising!
- Bonus: Integrate a raffle or silent auction into the event.

Sports (Basketball, Softball, Fishing, etc.) Tournaments or Fun Run

- Work with your local parks and recreation department or city to secure a location for your event.
- Determine the format of your tournament, set the rules, and have teams or individuals buy in to participate.
- Work with local gyms, clubs, and/or organizations to promote your event.

Motorcycle Ride/Motorcycle Poker Ride

- Blend one of your favorite hobbies with fundraising!



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- Work with local restaurants to pair a motorcycle ride with a multi-course lunch or dinner, or send people to different destinations around your local community and pass out playing cards at each stop.
- The person with the best poker hand at the end of the ride wins a prize!
- Proceeds can be collected from partnering restaurants and registration fees from participants.

Concert

- Partner with a local orchestra/symphony/etc. to feature Walk MS or Bike MS before, during intermission and after their performance.
- OR, if you know someone musical, ask them if they would be willing to get some other musical individuals together to put on a concert.
- Negotiate a special fee with a venue and charge admission to the event.

Pub Crawl/Wine Tour

- Work with local breweries or wineries to supply participants with drink specials/tastings at several local breweries
- Offer a non-alcoholic option for designated drivers who register
- See if businesses can provide food specials in addition to drink specials

Raffle or a Silent Auction

- Collect donations from local businesses, friends, family, etc.
- If you have a special skill, or know someone who has a special skill such as make something, build something, or perform a service (quilt, furniture, flower arrangements, car detailing, etc.) ask if they will donate their goods/services.

Live Auction

- While this event takes a lot of preparation, the opportunity to make this an annual event can allow you to build the event year over year.
- Participants pay to attend and
- Pair it with a dinner, either catered or at a local restaurant, depending on your estimated participation and budget
- Approach local businesses to donate auction items.
- Ask your friends/family to share any connections they might have for donations
- If desired, integrate an additional silent auction or raffle component.

Questions about any of the ideas listed above? Contact us!

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