



Department Fundraising Ideas

Use the ideas below as inspiration as you plan a fundraising event for your department!

Ideas with ★ are especially great for remote or hybrid teams.

Quick + Low/No Budget:

- ★ Taylor Swift Song Vote (October 3 album release): Set out jars (or online “vote with your dollar” options) for coworkers to pick the best new song. Fun, timely, and easy to run.
- ★ Jar Wars: Label jars with manager names and let staff “vote” by donating. The manager with the most dollars takes on a funny challenge.
- ★ \$10 Sale: Everyone donates items for a twist on a garage sale — but everything is priced at \$10, no matter the value.

Tasty Treats:

Caramel Apple Bar: Set up apples, caramel, and toppings. Coworkers build their own treat with a suggested donation.

Breakfast Burritos or Sandwiches: Volunteers cook and sell in the morning for a small upcharge/donation. Great for early or late shifts.

Chili Cook-Off: Staff bring in chili, and participants donate \$5–\$10 to taste them all and cast a vote for the winner.

Cupcake or Cookie Bake-Off: All items priced the same. The first to sell out wins “best looking,” while staff also vote on taste.

★ Recipe Challenge + Virtual Cookbook: Employees submit a recipe (or a video of them making it). Collect donations to access the final “department cookbook.”

★ Virtual Hot Chocolate Break: Host a Zoom coffee chat. Everyone donates to join and share their favorite seasonal drink.

Fitness + Wellness:

★ Steps Challenge: Staff join a step-counting competition. Donate to enter, prize for most steps.

★ Yoga or Zumba Class: Host a wellness session with a volunteer instructor. Entry by donation.

★ Walk & Talk Breaks: Organize short walking meetings where staff donate to participate.

Cornhole / Ladder Toss Tournament: Set up outdoors for a fun competition.

Monster Mini Walk/Run: Organize a short route around campus or nearby. Donations serve as entry fees.

Showcase Talents:

Farmer's Market or Craft Fair: Sell homegrown produce, plants, or handmade crafts in a department mini market. Reserve a larger space to invite multiple departments for a craft and goods market.

★ Karaoke / Lip Sync Battle: Pick a theme (Disney, Taylor Swift, Oldies). Charge to perform or "vote with your dollar" for winners. Works in person or virtually.

★ Pumpkin Carving Contest: Employees bring in or submit pumpkin photos; coworkers donate to vote for their favorite.

★ Virtual Talent Show: Invite staff to share music, dance, comedy, or other talents. Charge admission or voting donations.

★ Team Playlist (Spotify/YouTube): Build a shared playlist. Donate to add a song. Great for breakroom music. Have a colleague who is great at graphic design, creating funny AI images, writing songs, calligraphy, painting or something unique? Would they offer their skills and creations for donations?

Games + Competitions:

★ Trivia or BINGO Lunch: Host trivia or BINGO over lunch or virtually on Zoom. Teams pay to play; the winning team gets bragging rights or a fun perk.

★ Virtual Escape Room: Use an online platform or create your own puzzles. Teams donate to enter.

★ Minute-to-Win-It Games: Run silly, one-minute challenges (stacking cups, ping pong toss). Donate to play or spectate.

★ Board Game Tournament Online: Run brackets for Jenga, Connect Four, or virtual games like Codenames.

★ Scavenger Hunt: In person or virtual — donate to enter and compete to complete a list of fun challenges.

★ Guess the Baby Photo: Collect staff baby photos and let others donate to guess who's who.

★ Pet Parade: Share pet photos or videos, then coworkers donate to vote for cutest or funniest.

Office Fun with a Twist:

Chair Races: Organize rolling-chair races in a safe hallway. Donate to participate or bet on winners.

★ Dress the Manager: Coworkers donate toward silly outfits (superhero cape, crazy socks). Manager wears the winning costume.

★ Costume Contest (in-person, photo or Zoom): Perfect for the getting ready for Halloween. Donate to enter or vote.

★ Photo Booth Challenge: Use props or Zoom filters to create themed photos. Small donation per entry.

★ Pumpkin E-Grams: Sell Halloween treats or e-cards that coworkers can send to each other.

Team Challenges:

Basket Auction: Each team creates a themed basket to raffle or auction off.

★ Spirit Week: Themed dress-up days — sports jerseys, retro outfits, holiday themes.

★ Goal Milestone Parties: Celebrate hitting fundraising goals with an ice cream social, pizza party, or coffee break.

Big Splash Dunk Tank: Hit a big milestone, then dunk a manager or take on another bold stunt.

Partner with Local Vendors

★ Restaurant Night: A local restaurant donates 10–20% of proceeds on a designated day to your We Got Heart fundraising.

Coffee Shop Special: Partner with a coffee shop to create a special drink for the campaign, with \$1 from every sale donated.

Retail Give-Back: A boutique, salon, or fitness studio offers a portion of sales for a set day or week.

Farmer's Market Booth: Ask a vendor at a local market to highlight your team fundraiser and donate a portion of their sales that day.

