

# A-Z Fundraising Ideas

When it comes to raising funds for Special Olympics Florida the opportunities are infinite. The list below provides ideas to get you started.



## A

**A-thons:** Reserve a location (such as your school, office, or cafeteria) to hold an “event”-a-thon. All participants then get their friends and family members to make pledges.

**Art Exhibition:** Students produce creative works of art and host a show for parents and friends buy back their budding artists’ masterpiece.

**Ask Everyone You Meet:** Even if you have sent out emails for online donations, carry an envelope with you so when you talk to people about Special Olympics Florida Polar Plunge you can ask for a donation right then. Don’t pre-judge whether people will or won’t give. Give them the chance to decide for themselves!

**Auctions:** Auction off a prime parking spot at work; a half or whole day off from work; a picnic lunch; or desserts, homemade dinners, local artwork, or other creative and fun items.

## B

**Babysit/Pet Sit:** Offer your services to watch over your neighbor or family friends’ children or pets while they are away in exchange for their donation.

**Bake Sales:** Hold a Friday bake sale so employees have treats for the weekend. Ask everyone at work or school to bring in a baked good to sell during lunch or after hours.

**Bargain Basement Evening Gowns:** Have those old bridesmaid/Prom dresses that sit in the closet and take up the most room? Host a sale or sell them online.

**Bar-B-Que:** Host a BBQ at work or for your neighborhood. Charge an entry fee for anyone who comes. *Make it a cook off!* Charge a fee to the participants who are eating.

**Book Sale:** Dust off your old books and have a book sale. Encourage colleagues or friends to clear their bookshelves and contribute!

**Bottle Drive:** Set up a box in your home, workplace, or school to collect returnable bottles and donate that change!

## C

**Cake Drawing:** Team members bake cakes, exchange tickets for donations, and raffle off the cake after the Event.

**Candy Bar Sales:** Purchase candy bars in bulk and resell them (with a mark-up, of course) at sporting events and other extracurricular activities.

**Candy Guessing Game:** Fill a large jar with candy. Have students pay to guess how many pieces are in the jar. The winner keeps the candy!

**Car Wash:** It's an oldie but goodie! Charge a flat fee for each car you wash.

**Carnation Sale:** Have coworkers or classmates purchase carnations and send them to a special someone.

**Challenges:** Compete for a cause! Challenge another team or company to raise more money than you.

**Coin Drive:** Keep a Special Olympics Florida coin box in high-traffic areas. All change is donated to your team fundraising totals. Place containers in each department or classroom. Ask everyone to contribute spare change for a week or a month. Give the winner a prize such as a pizza party or ice cream social.

**Cooking Class:** Be the next Julia Child! Offer to teach the latest recipes and ask for a donations.

**Cook-offs:** Encourage budding chefs to compete for the best chili or BBQ. Charge a fee to taste and vote!

**D**  
**Dedicate:** Dedicate your personal effort to an athlete who is inspiring you to Plunge. Share their story to inspire others!

**Dinner:** Have your team hold a themed dinner. Ask each team member to prepare part of the meal. Sell tickets and arrange for donated entertainment. Try to get a hall/event space donated to host the event!

**Dress Down or Hat Day:** Ask every employee or student to contribute to your team and in return they will be allowed to "dress down" on a specific day at work or school.

**Dog Wash:** Offer a low-cost dog wash for the furry, four-footed members of the community! You can sell refreshments for the dog lovers to enjoy while they wait for their dogs to be bathed, and include some treats or biscuits for the dogs.



**Dollar Drive:** Get your campus or workplace to donate \$1.00. Come up with creative ways to get 100% participation.

**E**  
**Eating Contest:** Have a contest to see who can eat the most! Have them donate an entry fee and rally supporters.

**EBay:** Sell some of your old things on eBay and have all the proceeds go to your Polar Plunge team!

**Email Signature:** Insert the hyperlink to your fundraising page on your email signature. Explain that you are raising funds for Special Olympics Florida Polar Plunge and encourage contacts to make a donation on your page!

## F

**Finals Survival Kits:** Put together everything students need to study including pencils, erasers, stress balls and snacks! Make them available for parents to buy for their students, too.

**Fundraise with Facebook:** Post the link to your fundraising page in your status update or send an email to all your Facebook friends asking for their support.

**Funny Photo Contest:** Have a funny photo contest and ask for submissions from your group. Setup pictures like an art show. Have the pictures framed or matted and include a small bio of the artist. In order to raise money, make it a juried art show. Place a jar, can, or box in front of each picture in which people can place coins or bills to vote for their favorites. Leave the display set up for a week or a long weekend.

## G

**Game Night:** Get out those board games and start playing! Charge an entry fee, break into teams and let all the fun begin!

**Garage Sale:** Ask your team members to clean out their attics, garages, and basements and donate items for a team-wide sale.

**Gift Wrapping:** Around the holidays, offer to wrap gifts for your colleagues in exchange for a donation. Some retailers will let you even gift wrap in their store.

**Golf Tournament:** Plan a golf tournament and charge a fee for a foursome.

**Grab Bag:** Put together a collection of items in bags and make sure no one can see what is inside. Charge a flat fee per item that they grab out of the bag. The surprise is that they will never know what they will get!

## H

**Handyman/woman for a Day:** Shovel snow, rake leaves, paint, water gardens, sweep, or mow your coworker's/neighbor's lawn and donate your "fee" to your Polar Plunge team. Place signs around the neighborhood!

**Head Shave Challenge:** Ask a principal/teacher/manager to shave his/her head when your team reaches its goal.



## Help the Environment:

Volunteer your time collecting recyclables from the community, then turn them in at a recycling center and donate the proceeds.

**Host a Show:** Partner with existing clubs to host a show and sell tickets. Talk to music clubs on campus about a talent show, fashion club about a Prom fashion show, or dance clubs about putting together a flash mob or dance marathon!

## Hot-dog-eating Contest.

Charge participants a \$10 entry fee or ask them to collect a minimum in pledges to participate. Set a time limit for the contest and ask local restaurants or grocery stores to donate the hot dogs and buns!

## How Many in That Jar?:

Load up a jar full of goodies and ask coworkers, family, friends, or even neighbors to guess how many are in there. Ask them for a donation to guess.



**I**  
**Ice Cream Social:** Host an ice cream social for your group's next fundraiser. Sell the ice cream plus an additional amount for each topping option.

**International Food Lunch:** Host a potluck lunch at work with international food and charge a fee for coworkers.

**J**  
**Jewelry Party:** Host a jewelry party at your house with a portion of the proceeds benefitting your Polar Plunge team!

**K**  
**Karaoke Competition:** Charge a fee for coworkers/friends to sing a song.

**Know Your Stuff:** Stay up-to-date with your Special Olympics Florida facts so that when potential donors ask you where their money goes, you will have an honest answer. For more information visit [www.specialolympicsflorida.org](http://www.specialolympicsflorida.org)

**L**  
**Letter Writing Campaign:** Write letters to your friends, family, and local businesses to let them know what you are doing and ask them to make a donation. Don't forget to follow up your letter with a phone call and an email!

**Lunch with the Boss/Teacher:** Employees or students donate for an entry into a drawing for lunch with a top level executive or teacher!

**M**  
**Money Week for Special Olympics Florida:** Compete between grades or homerooms to see who can make the most money. On Monday students donate pennies, Tuesday nickels, Wednesday dimes, Thursday quarters and on Friday students donate \$1. Would your local bank or grocery store be willing to count the change?

**Matching Gifts:** Ask your donors if their company has a matching gift program. It's an easy way to double your donations.

**Mow-A-Lawn:** Check with neighbors and friends to see if you can mow their lawn for a donation!

**Movie & Dinner Night:** Host a movie & dinner night at your home and invite friends and ask them to donate.

**Movie Night in the Auditorium:** Sell tickets to movie night for \$5 each. Take it to the next level by selling candy and popcorn with proceeds benefitting Special Olympics Florida.

**Murder Mystery Night:** When you host a Murder Mystery Dinner Party, your guests will be immersed in an evening of treachery, mystery, murder, intrigue and fun!

**N**  
**New Year's Eve Party:** Ring in the New Year with good friends and fundraising for Polar Plunge!

**No Bake Sale:** In lieu of baked goods, ask supporters to make a donation to not have to bake something. It's calorie free!

## O

### **Office Celebration Day:**

Host a celebratory party at your office. Add a drawing for an easy way to raise funds!

**Online Fundraising:** Sign up online and raise money the easy way at [www.PlungeFL.org](http://www.PlungeFL.org)!

## P

**Paper Plane Race:** When was the last time you made a paper plane? Get your employees to pay a flat fee to compete for the fastest paper plane title. Get participants registered 2 weeks in advance and schedule a meet time during lunch or after work.

**Pancake Breakfast/Car Wash:** Host the event at a local diner. While attendees eat, have volunteers outside washing their cars!

**Penny War:** Each grade level competes against each other to collect the most pennies. Students are encouraged to put nickels, dimes, and quarters in another grade's container to get the corresponding amount of pennies subtracted from their total count! Have prizes for the winning group!

### **Percentage of Sales:**

Ask a store or restaurant to give a percentage of one day's sales to Special Olympics Florida. Publicize the store's offers.

### **Pie-in-the-Face Stand:**

Teachers and faculty volunteer to participate and then students pay with a donation for each pie tin filled with whipped cream.

### **Pizza for Lunch Sale:**

School food often leaves a lot to be desired. Grab some pizzas and resell them by the slice to students who are anxious for a lunch alternative.

**Plan a Party:** Plan a Halloween, end-of-semester, Valentine's Day, Mardi Gras, St. Patrick's Day party, etc. And ask each attendee to make a \$3 or \$5 donation at the door.

**Publicity:** Publicize your team's participation in your company, school or neighborhood newsletter!

**Pumpkin Sale:** When Halloween rolls around everyone needs a pumpkin. Take advantage by buying pumpkins in bulk and hosting a sale for students and members of the community.



## Q

**Quiz Night:** Host a quiz game at your house, charge your friends, and see how knowledgeable they really are!

**Quilt:** Sell quilt squares in honor of an athlete!

## R

**Raffles:** Raffles are an easy way to raise money. Contact local vendors or businesses for donations. Be sure to review Florida Raffle laws and discuss with Special Olympics Florida staff.

**Read-a-Thon:** A twist on the traditional "a-Thon" events, read-a-thons involve participants receiving pledge donations based on the number of books or pages they read. Again, students receive prizes based on how much money they raise.



**Recognition Day:** Sell balloons, cupcakes, flowers, cards, etc. to be given to a coworker on a designated day to show thanks or appreciation!

## S

**Special Events:** If you have a birthday, anniversary, or other special event approaching, host a party and ask guests to provide a donation to your Polar Plunge team in lieu of gifts.

**Spelling Bee:** Dust off your dictionary and hold a grown up spelling bee. You can collect an entrance donation fee or even ask those in the audience to contribute.

**Spell Out Success:** Teachers at the school choose a list of 10-20 words for each grade level. Family and friends pledge a certain amount for each word the students spell correctly on a test, taken two weeks later. Teachers announce the total number of words spelled correctly and the students celebrate with a party.

**Spirit Chain:** Create a paper chain in your team colors with links sold for \$1.00 each. Decorate the hallways, foyer, library, cubicles, etc. Create a spirit of competition by having classes or departments create their own chains and longest one wins a prize (or bragging rights). At the end of the competition, link all the chains together to show your combined effort.

**Sponsors:** Ask local businesses or your company to sponsor your Polar Plunge team. Be creative and find ways to advertise their support!

**Sports Tournament:** Host a basketball, softball, soccer, or kickball tournament. Charge a flat fee per team that participates. For a little extra revenue, be sure to also sell some snacks on the day of the tournament.

**Student/Teacher Sports Event:** Home football and basketball games attract a lot of school fans. At halftime, students and teachers can compete in games or other sporting events. Example: students and teachers can purchase the opportunity to compete in a half court shooting competition and win a prize if they make it!



**Talent Show:** Celebrate your talents by hosting a talent show with admission fees going to your Special Olympics Florida Polar Plunge team.

**Teacher Challenge:** Select a few teachers to participate in the competition. Students vote with spare change for the teacher who must "take the challenge". The teacher with the most votes is challenged to take a pie to the face, dress up like a character for the day, host a pizza lunch, wear a funny wig or anything to make people laugh.

## U

**Unwanted Gifts Sale:** Ask your coworkers to bring any unwanted items to work and hold a sale to benefit your Polar Plunge team.

## V

**Vacation Days:** Hold a drawing for an extra vacation day and advertise it in your company's newsletter.

## W

**Wacky Hat Day:** Ask classmates or coworkers to make a few dollar donations to wear their wackiest hat to work/school that day.

**Walk-a-Thon:** Participants ask friends and family to sponsor them by pledging to make small donations for every lap they complete. Walkers keep track of their laps and then sponsors can donate accordingly! 50 walkers x 10 sponsors each x \$1/lap x 15 laps per walker = \$7,500!

**Wishing Well:** Build it out of cardboard, coffee cans, or a new metal trash can and get permission to place it in a central spot on campus to collect spare change.

## X

**Xmas Card Donation:** Make homemade cards for Xmas and sell them for a donation.

## Y

**Yard/Garage Sale:** Hold the finest yard sale. Make sure you let your customers know that their money will be donated.

## Z

**Zzz:** Get your rest! You've worked hard at making our mission possible!



**ARE YOU READY?!**  
**GET SET. PLUNGE!!!**