

FUND RAISING IDEAS FOR 4-H CLUBS



NOTE: 4-H is a non profit educational organization. 4-H fund raisers must be done for the good of the total group (not an individual or small group of individuals) and must be consistent with Tuscola County 4-H fundraising policies. Fund raising cannot be the main focus of group activities nor may it exclude any individual from participating in 4-H activities. Groups are expected to support the financial needs of the total group, and when possible, to assist with participation costs in county, state, national, and international programs. All funds for goods and services are to be paid to the club, not to an individual. An educational component must be a part of all fund raising activities. A fund raising request form must be submitted to the Tuscola County MSU Extension office at least 30 days in advance of making any commitments (signing contract, purchasing materials, etc.) and must be approved by 4-H Council before any fund-raising steps are taken. The 4-H name and/or logo may not be used for any unapproved activity. The results of fund raising activities must be reported within 10 days after the conclusion of the fund raiser. Fund raising request and review forms are available online at www.msue.msu.edu/tuscola (click on the 4-H link) or through the MSU Extension office. All clubs and committees must submit a year end financial statement each year that contains information about all money that the club handles during the year, including dues, fund raisers, donations, etc.

Consider the following ideas:

Sales, bazaars, auctions, or roadside farm stands.

Serving dinners, pancake breakfast or supper, soup supper, spaghetti dinner, box suppers, socials, refreshment stands at fairs, parades, games, or other events, submarine sandwich advance order sales. Look for gimmicks such as wild game dinners, chili cook offs, barbecues, etc.

Operate a coffee/food service at construction sites, freeway rest areas or harvest locations (get permission and permits, if needed).

Operate a checkroom, serve as ushers, park cars, control traffic, take tickets, or perform other services at community or sports events.

Christmas greens, Christmas tree lot, make Christmas wreaths, door decorations, or other holiday items, gift wrapping service, decorating service.

Hold a collection drive for scrap iron, aluminum, newspapers, or other recyclable materials.

Contract with a private or governmental community group or individuals to perform a community service project (ex. roadside cleanup, putting up house numbers).

Wash and wax cars (perhaps at an employee parking lot during a workday. Employees could pay as they come to work, the club would have all day to wash cars.

Check with owners of vacant property for cleanup or beautification projects.

Clean stadiums, fairgrounds, or other facilities after public events.

4-Hers sell their time to neighbors or local businesses for such jobs as lawn mowing, yard clean-up, window cleaning, baby-sitting, running errands, shoveling snow and treat icy walkways or parking lots.

Maintain yards of vacant homes that are for sale (check with real estate agencies.)

Organize a baby sitting service, mom's day out program, summer day camp type program, nursery or day care service during community events, be careful.

Conduct rummage sales or auctions.

Operate garage sales for neighborhoods or community organizations on a commission basis.

Operate a weekend kennel, walk dogs, or provide other pet-related services.

Design and sell T-shirts and similar promotional items.

Organize a fashion show.

Offer a birthday party service. Plan games, dress as clowns, provide refreshments, supervise activities.

Offer to decorate floats for parades or celebrations.

Take photos at dances or conventions.

Catch or raise fish bait to sell.

Organize ski swaps, parts sales or similar functions for a commission or booth rental.

Provide a crew for harvests: hay, fruit, vegetable, or other event requiring temporary workers.

Home safety watch service, take care of yards, pets, mail, etc. while owners are away.

Construct and maintain fences for farmers or ranchers.

Organize a special mass buying opportunity for other 4-H groups or neighbors where buyers save money and/or get special service and 4-H'ers get a percentage of sales (ex. family photographs, flea markets, auctions, food co-op).

Organize a class for your community and charge to make a profit (ex. stop-smoking clinic, snowmobile or hunter safety class, weight reduction clinic or exercise class, holiday craft making class, etc.)

Sponsor a tournament, a "fun run", sports clinic, trip to a sports event, walk or bike or dance-a-thon.

Hold a bake sales, cookbooks, ethnic banquets, or cooking lessons. Operate a concession stand at sporting events, fairs, or community celebrations.

Start a county 4-H memorial/recognition donation program for individuals to give to for the happy and sad times in their lives.

Organize a craft show, antique show, horse show or other event where you can charge both booths and the general public.

Take advantage of national/area contests (ex. collections of labels, caps, cans, etc.)

In general, think about how 4-H project and other learning activities might tie into the following broad categories for fund-raising: (1) entertainment (2) recreation and sports (3) parties (4) bazaars (5) fairs and festivals (6) merchandise - old and new (7) tours (8) service (9) fashion shows (10) meals for a crowd or (11) individual food sales.