

FUNDRAISING IDEAS FOR STUDENTS

Here are some ideas to raise funds not only for your flat fee payment but also for other exchange-related expenses, such as the optional tours some host countries offer.

SAFETY FIRST

Remember to always check with your parent or guardian before starting a new project. They will add to your success with their ideas and suggestions, and can make sure that you stay safe. Never go door-to-door or to meet with people that you don't know well without bringing an adult along with you. .

CREDENTIALS

Ask your local Rotary club or sponsor Rotary district for a letter verifying you are an exchange student.

BRAINSTORM WITH OTHERS

See what fundraising ideas you & your parents have. Other adults you know may have additional ideas on how to raise funds, so ask them if they know of any opportunities

SPREAD THE WORD

Think about how you could let people who would be interested in your services know about your project. Start with people that you know well, through school, church, clubs, your neighborhood, or family friends. Remind people that they may want to buy your services for a friend or relative, if not for themselves.

1. Flyer or Handout.
2. Word of Mouth
3. Social Media
4. Letter – Write to family and friends explaining the exchange & asking for any donation
5. Student writes a formal letter to parents and grandparents asking that all gifts for the coming year be given in money toward the exchange.

Check to see if your Rotary Club will team up with the student in a Fund Raiser of any kind.

VISIT LOCAL BUSINESSES

- Go to local businesses, explain you are study abroad students, and ask for donations for the exchange (with donations ranging from \$5 - \$50). One student raised LOTS of money using this method.
- Ask managers of Kohls, Wal Mart, Chain Drug/Convenience stores and chain big box home supply stores (Home Depot, Lowes) for a donation to your exchange. All those stores must give money to worthy
- Restaurants will designate a portion of the funds from one day's or one meal's sales if student sells "tickets" to the meal
- Go to a local theater (which puts on plays) and ask the theater if you may sell tickets to one of their performances in exchange for all or part of the revenue. Student will need to sell enough tickets to fill or nearly fill the performance venue

CROWD FUNDING

- GoFundMe has a Travel Fundraising category for dream trips, vacation, study abroad, etc. (There's a processing fee)
- GoEnnounce shares student news, including fundraising of student missions, including study abroad
- Teespring is a t-shirt fundraising site (fees vary). They do have some t-shirts by students raising money for study abroad.

RECYCLING

- Go door-to-door and ask for items which have redemption value (bottles, cans etc). Take the items to redemption center and keep the money
- At public events, volunteer to pick up the items with recyclable value. Take the items to redemption center and keep the money
- Collect used books and have a used book sale

UPCYLING

- Upcycle plastic water bottles into bird feeders, planters, or other objects
- Transform men's old shirts into aprons or pillows
- Cut up old jeans and make into pencil cases
- Collect old Christmas cards and make into gift tags
- Paint small rocks and attach magnets
- Crochet plastic shopping bags into door mats
- Add colorful duck tape to food tin cans to make them in to planters for herb garden

TEACHING, TUTORING, MENTORING

- Teaching a skill that you have – dancing, gymnastics, self-defense, basketball, trumpet, etc,
- Teach a craft – painting, card making, scrapbooking, rock painting, baking cookies, model airplanes, knitting, parachute cord bracelets, lego crafts, string art, derby car
- Tutoring to middle school or elementary school students – math, languages, science, poetry
- Healthy eating class –charge an entrance fee, teach 1 or 2 meals in a session
- BMX Coach to kids at \$15 per lesson or student

SERVICE

- Walking dogs or watching pets or farm animals when people are on vacation.
- Watering plants while people are on vacation. Also, bringing in the mail or newspaper, putting seed on the bird feeder, sweeping or shoveling the sidewalk. Scraping ice off of car windows
- .Watching kids while parents do work around the house, or go shopping, or get ready for company, or pack for a trip, or sleep. Very appreciated by busy/tired parents.
- Cleaning garages, or helping a homeowner clean a garage or basement. Cleaning out a car interior.
- Helping with yard work. Help plant a garden in spring or pull weeds in summer Stacking firewood.
- Hauling someone's garbage to the curb on garbage day.
- Doing computer work for others, such as making a holiday letter, photo page, putting together a slide show, or other project that they may not yet have the time or computer skills to complete.
- Helping a busy parent put on a birthday party.

SALES

- Garage Sale: Garage sale: many people are cleaning or moving and have a few things to donate to a worthy cause. Pick the items up, or have a place where they can drop them off. Publicize (signs, etc).
- Bake sale. The keys are location and publicity. Have a donation jar for people to donate change.
- Selling hot or cold drinks at a sporting event or lecture, etc.
- Sell Coffee door to door with label on with containing picture of student and explanation of purpose
- Sell singing telegrams or Xmas caroling or Birthday balloons
- Taking orders for pies, breads, cakes or cookies, especially during the holidays or cinnamon rolls delivered to the door on a Saturday or Sunday morning.
- Making and selling your arts and crafts -- make notecards, bracelets, earrings, or little gift items to sell
- Build handmade Xmas and Valentine cards and sell them door to door
- Sell some item door to door such as Yankee Candles, which allow the seller to keep 40%
- Sell Xmas wreaths door to door
- Appreciation Grams – Charge people at work or the neighborhood a small fee (\$1) to send an “I appreciate you” note to someone in the community
- Design t-shirts about exchange and sell at school (with permission) to fellow students and teachers.
- Consider asking an organization like “Thrivant” etc. for seed money to buy “x” amount of inventory which is then sold by student.
- Before leaving on exchange, take pre-paid orders for a custom calendar of photos from your exchange
- Before leaving on exchange, take pre-paid orders for photos or people, landscape, tourist locations, and animals from the country you will visit (at \$10/ photo)

CHALLENGES

- Create a Fitness Challenge for you and your friends or Host a Dance Contest
- Host a sports tournament in your school and have teams from school and from community. Volleyball was one example. Charge for participation and make or get donated the refreshment which can be sold
- Hold an Instagram photo contest (or photo scavenger hunt) with your friends
- Challenge friends, family, or neighbors to a Talent show
- Challenge friends to a Group Hike, Bike Ride, or Float Trip
- Hold a tournament of any time. Charge for entry and try to get all of or a share of concessions sales
- Any students at your school have a band? Host a battle of the bands. Charge an entry fee for the bands, a ticket fee for the audience, have concession stand
- Create an obstacle course. Have a registration fee. Sign up as individuals or teams. Offer a small prize.

EVENTS WITH ROTARY CLUB, ROTARY DISTRICT, OR OTHER ROTARY YE STUDENTS

- Ask for unsold/sellable items from businesses and auction them each week at the local Rotary club
- Club provided matching grant but only supplies what money the student earns. In other words if the student earns \$1100, club only matches that amount
- Ask an etiquette teacher to teach etiquette to the outbounds and inbounds. Charge each club to have the student attend. Have the etiquette teacher donate all or part of his/her fee to the student
- **Denomination Envelopes** - Get small envelopes at office supply store. Write certain denominations on them from \$5 to \$100. Of course, many more \$5 envelopes than \$100 envelopes. Partner with RC or any other group to allow prominent placement of envelopes on a table. Partner group promotes the fund raiser verbally. Donors can pick any envelope they want. They put in the money amount on the envelope and return it to the RC or club. Student raised over \$1000
- **Trivia Night** – ask your local Rotary club to help you host a trivia night to raise funds for your exchange
- **Community Picnic** – ask your local Rotary club to help you organize and host a community picnic where you charge a small admission fee
- Have the outbound class design and implement a fund raiser for the benefit to student(s) who need money

EVENTS

- **Luck Of The Draw** – Use a silent auction format but people buy tickets. There are bowls in front of each item. Ticket buyers place any number of their purchased tickets in the bowls. The more tickets you place in any one bowl, the better your odds of getting the item. Exchange student can roam the area with rolls of tickets to sell. Most places do \$1 tickets. (Check to see if your state requires a permit/license for a non-profit fundraising drawings.)
- **Pancake Supper with Raffle** – Solicit as many raffle prizes as possible and invite as many people as possible. Rotary club can help student do this. (Check to see if your state requires a permit/license for a non-profit fundraising raffle.)
- **Golf Ball Drop.** –Buy “x” number of golf balls (See #7 and #13 for ways to get seed money) Write a number on each golf ball. Sell the golf balls in the community. Then one day, have a helicopter or ladder fire truck drop the balls on a target that the student paints on a flat piece of ground. The golf ball that lands closest to the center splits the pot with the student.
- **Cow Bingo** - Same idea but use a cow or sheep or goat on a piece of ground which is divided into numbered squares. Which ever square the animal poops on splits the pot with the student. Student can also sell refreshments at the event for those waiting for the “action”
- **FLOCK** – Acquire a group of pink flamingos, a brightly painted toilet with plastic flowers, a goat etc. Place the item in a person’s yard. Person has to pay to have the item removed or pay to have it moved to someone else’s yard. Student keeps the money.
- **Easter Egg Hunt** – get 100 -200 plastic Easter eggs, fill with candy or tiny toys. Charge a small admission fee. Have some Easter baskets or buckets you can sell to.
- **Rubber Duck Race.** Buy group of Rubber ducks and number them. On a certain day put them in a steam. First one across splits the money with the student
- **Locked Up** - Have the student be “locked up” in local jail or in jail like cage at public event (Farmer’s market, fair etc). Give the student a cell phone and let him call people to come “bail” him/her out.
- **Kids Bingo Night.** Sell admission tickets, or charge per bingo card.
- **Helping out at an event** in exchange for a donation. Setting up chairs, pouring coffee, cleaning up at the end. Possibilities: annual meetings, awards banquets, political events, conferences
- Work in a charity fund-raising booth (country fair, festival, etc) in exchange for some portion of the funds
- **Pet Picture Day** – ask a photographer to donate time, invite pet-owners to come to have photos taken with their pets. Charge a fee for photo. Have a snack & water station for the pets. Possibly offer other pet-photo merchandise.
- **Ice fishing** – Have student auger the hole and then charge people to use the hole. Student can also sell refreshments to the fishers
- **Holding a manga art contest/show** or a manga drawing workshop. Hosting an anime or movie event. This can be just the film, with snacks for sale, or can be a half day event with games. You'll need friends or family to help and adults with you. Be sure to show age-appropriate films. As in all events, good planning and publicity are the key to success. Consult with many people for ideas.
- **Sing, Act, Play Music** at a business party or trade show (with permission) with a donation jar.
- Hold private “**Talent**” party and charge for the food and or entry. This for student who have a talent which lends itself to this fund raising mode...such as: singing, instrument playing, etc.
- Make a meal, or food item and sell tickets to the event or sell the items
- **International Potluck Dinner** (or Chili Cook Off or Pasta Party or Taco Tuesday) at your house

LIST OTHER FUNDRAISING IDEAS HERE