



Youth FUNdraising Kit

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Summer Activities

Each summer, we at Celebration Student Ministries do our best to offer up a host of activities to keep your student growing in God. We would like to encourage you to keep your student as involved as possible!

You can find out about the activities through our Student Ministries page on the Celebration Church website: www.celebration.org; or through your local campus Information Center.

Most of the activities are very affordable. Others will require some fundraising on your students' part.

We have found that the students who raise their own funds for activities get the most out of the event. For this reason, we encourage you to fight the urge to pay for it yourself, and instead, challenge your student to come up with at least a portion of the price. We have included in this Youth FUNdraising Kit a section consisting of fundraising ideas for your student.

Missions Trips and Partnership Teams

The seemingly biggest "obstacle" to Youth Missions is the cost, but the financial truth about a short-term trip is this: 'if it's God's will, it's God's bill.' On every mission trip there are awesome testimonies of God's supernatural provision.

The key to overcoming this "obstacle" is to build a partnership team. For every person sent, God calls together a team to support that person with prayer and finances. It is you/your student's job as the one who is "sent" to find the "senders."

Partnership Letters

The most common method for building your team is the partnership letter. These letters describe your trip, and let people know you are looking for their partnership.

The idea is to write your letter, make copies, and distribute them to people you have relationships with. They are not intended to become a 'mass mailer,' but to be given strategically to the people you know.

See sample letter on the next page



Sample Partnership Letter

(Remember to make the letter your own, and to change any necessary dates or deadlines.)

February 11, 2009

Dear Uncle Barry,

I have been attending a wonderful church in the Jacksonville area called Celebration Church for two years now. There is an incredible opportunity coming up in July to travel to Costa Rica with the high school ministry to do missions' work. We will be leaving Jacksonville on July 25 to spend one week serving the needs of the local community and the local church by doing outreaches, feeding the poor and ministering to elementary and high school students. Before we depart America, our team in Jacksonville will gather together weekly, to do mission team training, prior to departure. These team building times will consist of prayer, discipleship and learning more about the Costa Rican culture and learning simple Spanish phrases. I can hardly wait to get there myself and experience the adventure of partnering with Costa Rican Christians and help to strengthen a church outside of the United States.

I am asking you to prayerfully consider partnering with me with a one-time financial donation to go abroad. I need to raise a total of \$1200 by April 21st. If you decide to make a financial donation, you can return your gift in the enclosed envelope and make your check payable to *Celebration Church of Jacksonville* with the trip code: xxxxx in the memo line.

Please include your email/ mailing address, so I can send you updates on the trip.

I believe this trip to Costa Rica and the discipleship training leading up to departure will be a turning point in my relationship with God because of my high expectations of what I believe God wants to do in me and through me!

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever!

Ephesians 3:20

Thanks so much for your consideration! God bless you!

Your name



Writing your letter

Take the sample letter and make it personal. Write in your own words. Don't try to sound super-spiritual; just tell why you are going and why you are asking them to join your team.

Who makes a good partner?

Instead of looking for people who might be the obvious "big donor," think about the story in Mark 12, where Jesus was excited to see a poor widow sow two copper coins into an offering. She gave from her heart in faith, and Jesus noticed her. God is waiting to bless the people who sow into your trip. If someone wants to give you \$5 for your trip, let them, they are joining your team!

Distributing your letters

Your fundraising letter should include these things in an envelope:

1. Your Partnership Letter
2. A small return envelope, NOT stamped, and addressed to YOU/YOUR HOME ADDRESS (even though the checks are made to Celebration Church.)

You can distribute your letters via email, but the best results come from either handing them to someone in person, or physical mail. In handing someone the letter, you can personally explain what God is doing in your life. They can ask questions and interact with you on the spot. They can then read the letter, pray and make a decision. Physical mail works well because you can include a return envelope for their partnership donation.

Collecting funds/Tracking your "team roster"

As checks come in, you will turn them in to the Administrator of your trip.

Keep track of your team members on paper, or in a spreadsheet. Collect names, phone numbers and email addresses, so you can update them on your trip, as well as send out thank you cards.



Raising Funds for Missions or Summer Activities

Whether you are raising funds for a summer activity or mission trip, remember this: ALL the money in the world belongs to the Lord (Psalm 24), and He will provide!

Here are some great ideas for fundraising that any student can do:

1) Envelope Fundraiser

Distribute 50 envelopes individually numbered 1 to 50 and ask that participant to fill the envelope with the amount of money written on the outside (1 to 50). Give them 2-5 weeks to fill up their envelope, and then keep up with who took what envelope to follow up with them later. If all 50 people give you the amount requested, it will add up to \$1,275.00. You might include a self-addressed, stamped envelope inside what you send them so that they can mail you a check back.

2) Egg Cracking

Go door to door of people that you know with several cartons of eggs. Tell them that for every \$5 they give you, they can crack an egg on your head, or you will crack it on your own head. You could even invite friends to help you out!

3) Have a _____ a-thon

For example, have a bike-a-thon, pump iron-a-thon, skate-a-thon, walk-a-thon, prayer-a-thon, etc. Get sponsors to pledge a set donation for every mile you walk, skate, ride . . . you get the point. Set a goal and let the sponsor know beforehand so they have an idea of how much they will have to pay.

4) Dirt Buster Day

Clean people's homes, garages or yards for a set fee. You might break it down to \$20 per yard and \$25 per house.

5) Make and Sell

Make and sell things like Bible or book covers, woodwork, printed notepads, dolls, stuffed animals, jewelry, etc. Make a sample to show people and then take orders. Make them as soon as you get the orders, if at all possible, in case the customer is using it as a gift.



6) Doggy Dip

Offer to give people's pets a bath for a set fee. Advertise with signs and posters around your neighborhood. Set up several metal or plastic tubs where they are easily seen. Have the owners stand nearby in case their pets need to be calmed. Wash and dry the pets. Collect the money when you are finished.

7) Babysit

Offer one night (or several nights) for parents to let you watch their kids.

8) Garage Sale

Announce to your friends and family that you're doing a garage sale and ask them to donate items. You can also go around to local garage sales and ask them to donate what is left when their sale ends. Then put on your garage sale! Make sure to advertise to your church and community.

9) Save Your Allowance

If you receive an allowance, save every penny of it, and make some sacrifices. For example, don't go to the movies as much, or don't buy as many *fill-in-the-blank!*

*** Please note that the fundraising ideas above are for you/your student to do with your friends/family/neighbors, etc. Celebration Church will not be hosting/organizing any fundraisers, but instead, we've given you this Fundraising Kit to empower you to.**

Scholarships

Celebration will not be providing scholarships for mission trips or other summer activities. Instead, we try to offer a variety of events at various costs. For instance, Summer Camp is an awesome spiritual event, but has a high fixed cost. Our solution: RUSH WEEK! Rush is a four-day awesome spiritual event with an affordable fixed cost! The ideal situation is to do both, so pray about it and offer the options to your student. We'd love to see him/her do all our summer events by earning his/her portion of the costs!