

Alternative Car Wash Fundraisers

Is your school, sports team, church, or group looking to raise money?

Here in the Pacific Northwest, community groups are moving away from car wash fundraisers in order to protect local streams, lakes, and Puget Sound. The soap, grime, and oils that come off cars harm aquatic life, including some of our favorite local animals like orcas and salmon. Instead, community groups are getting creative and successfully raising funds in new, fun ways. Here are some ideas to get you started, but there are other resources available not listed below.

Sell things!

Car wash tickets. Commercial car washes protect local creeks by capturing and treating their dirty wash water. Tickets can be purchased at a discounted rate from:

- Puget Sound Car Wash Association charity fundraiser program:
www.wcwa.org/mpage/CharityCarwashHome
- Brown Bear Car Wash also has a charity fundraiser program:
<https://brownbear.com/programs/car-wash-fundraiser>

Hold a magazine drive. Run an annual magazine drive to raise funds to support your program. Fundraisers can work with organizations such as Great American:
www.gafundraising.com

Sell eco-friendly products. Many organizations allow donors to order products such as reusable bottles or bags with your charity's name on them online, so you won't have to purchase products in advance. Example partner: www.kotisdesign.com

Sell mattresses. Hold a mattress fundraiser at your school or community center. Example partner: www.customfundraisingsolutions.com

Hold an auction. Ask local businesses to donate items for an auction. Also, consider including experiences with teachers or senior staff.

Hold a garage sale. Ask family and friends to donate items in good condition that they no longer want or use! Host a large garage sale and earn money for your organization!

Raise funds with a scrip program. Scrip programs allow participating merchants to contribute a percentage of donors' purchases to your organization. Donors sign up and shop for items they usually would with participating merchants, and merchants give back to your organization. Example partners include www.escrip.com and www.shopwithscrip.com

Collect things!

Partner with TerraCycle. TerraCycle pays schools for collected empty juice packs and wrappers which they will then turn into bags, pencil boxes, and other items to reduce the waste going to the landfill. <http://terracycle.net>

Hold an online donation drive. Set up a crowdfunding page and raise money online. Fundraisers can work with organizations such as www.fundly.com

Collect latex paint for recycling. Hold a latex paint recycling event and raise money for your organization. Contact peter@greensheepaint.com for information.

Hold a used clothing/goods/shoe drive. Raise funds for your organization by collecting gently used items. Example partners: fundrive.savers.com and www.funds2orgs.com

Collect e-waste for recycling. Raise funds by recycling items such as empty ink cartridges, cell phones, laptops, and iPods. There is no cost to participate and unlimited fundraising profit for collecting items. Example partners: www.cfktoday.com and www.fundingfactory.com

Have fun!

Hold a read-a-thon. Ask people to pledge a dollar amount for every book read!

Organize a walk-a-thon or fun-run on campus. Ask people to pledge a certain dollar amount for each lap participants walk or run for their cause! Here's how to do it: https://charity.lovetoknow.com/How_to_Organize_a_Walkathon

Host a dinner/game night. Charge your guests a cover for dinner and entertain them with games like bingo, trivia, or a board game tournament. Provide prizes to the winners!

Host a sing-along movie night. Charge your guests a cover to watch a sing-along movie with a dress-up contest, trivia questions, or best singer award. Provide prizes to the winners!

Host a community concert or sports clinic. Charge your guests a fee to attend a concert by your band, orchestra or choir. Charge your guests a fee to participate in a clinic or workshop hosted by your sports team or club.

Partner with a local business! Work with your local businesses for a percentage of proceeds: help sell products locally or organize a restaurant dine out! Some businesses will allow you to organize a bingo or trivia night in order to earn money!