

SPECIAL EVENTS

UNITED WAY
Northeastern
Minnesota



Use Special Events and Games to Make Your Campaign Fun & Informative

Basket Auction

Ask each department in your organization to sponsor, create and fill a theme basket (spa, chocolate, golf, cooking). The baskets are then auctioned off.

Car Wash

Charge employees to have their car washed by management. Take and sell pictures.

Dress Down Day

Sell employees the right to dress casually or silly for a day. Variations include: "Silly Hat Day", "Sport Team Day" or "Ugly Shoe Day". United Way has "Casual Day" stickers available at no cost.

Survivor Game

Each participant pays \$5 to join and has to do something each day to stay on the island. They have to: bring an item for the silent auction, bring in baked goods for the bake sale or wear a certain color. Winner receives paid time off.

Coin War

Set up large empty water bottles for each department in a central location. Employees drop their spare change into the bottle. Coins are positive while paper money is negative. The group with the highest point value wins. All cash collected is donated to United Way.

Auction

Auction off staff services (i.e., babysitting, oil change, lunch for a week), executive parking spaces, donated merchandise or services. Try conducting the auction over your web site.

Rummage Sale

Ask employees to donate old items (books, CDs, videos) for a company or department-wide sale. Unsold items may be donated to a local shelter.

Flower Event

Have a local florist donate flowers. Employees purchase the flowers with proceeds to the United Way.

Balloon Launch

Sell balloons filled with helium. The employee puts his/her name on a card that contains company name and address, a short message asking finder to return card by a specified date and that the balloon was launched as part of your company's United Way campaign. All balloons are launched at the same time. Person whose card is returned from the greatest distance receives a prize.

Where is _____? (Name of CEO or a person in management) - BIG HIT!

Create a life-size cardboard person and use a cut-out picture of a staff member (CEO) to put on the cardboard person. Employees can send this to anyone's office with a note. \$1.00 buys you the opportunity to send it, \$2.00 will allow you to have it removed.

Hat Wars

Want to see your manager or co-workers in a crazy looking hat? Pay a fee to have someone wear one of these crazy hats for an hour. Person receiving the hat can get "revenge" if they want to by paying a fee for their buyer to wear one of the hats the following day. You can pay for more than an hour if you wish. Be creative with the hats and have fun.

Lose Your Locks

Have employees volunteer to cut their hair or shave their heads if goals are met.

Balloon Pop

Employees or vendors donate prizes for this event- a variation of a traditional raffle. Before filling a balloon with helium, put a note inside with the name of a prize. Employees buy a balloon and pop it to find out what prize they've won.

Funniest Home Video

Employees bring in tapes of funny moments caught on tape. Vote on the best video, winner gets a prize.

Casino Night

Provide a few game tables, one bingo table, bean bag toss and snack table. Employees and their families create a successful casino night. Have local businesses donate prizes for the winners.

White Elephant Sale

Have items in storage you don't use? Gifts you never returned? Donate them to the sale or conduct a gift exchange. Your trash is someone else's treasure!

Greeting Card Sale

Have departments create various cards and sell them with all proceeds going to United Way.

Other Ideas...

Carnival Games, Dunk Tank, Cake Walk, Musical Chairs, Guessing Game-How many M&M's in the Jar, Singing/ Poetry/Songwriting Contest, Pizza Party, Popcorn Sale and Watermelon Seed Spitting Contest.



General Games

Who Is It?

Gather baby pictures of co-workers. Have a contest to see who can correctly name the most co-workers. Contestants pay a fee to take part. Give an award for the most correct matches.

Bingo

Sell Bingo cards for a small fee. Send e-mails sporadically throughout the week with one or two Bingo numbers each time. The first person to get Bingo should let everyone know by sending an e-mail to all users, and, of course, he or she will win a donated prize.

Kids Coloring Contest

A colorful way to get everyone's children involved is to have children color a United Way logo or have them make a picture that shows giving or sharing. These pieces of art are great to use on thank you cards, t-shirts or bookmarks. Sponsor a contest and give a prize to the top three artists.

Ugliest Apparel Contest

Contestants pay to enter the ugliest tie, earrings, socks, or stockings contest. Take pictures of the participants and have employees 'vote' on the ugliest apparel by contributing a dollar.

Picture Match Game

Invite employees to try their luck at matching high school pictures, pet pictures or celebrity pictures to executives. Charge employees to vote and award the entry with the most right answers a fun prize.

Fashion Show

Sponsor an employee fashion show with employees modeling sweatshirts, hats, jackets, etc. with your organization logo. Employees pledge at least \$5.00 to attend and are entered into a drawing for the items that are modeled.

Scavenger Hunt

Employees pay an entrance fee to hunt for hidden items around the office or neighborhood. Give employees a time limit. Award the winning team a prize. Add themes by having employees dress as detectives or hunt for themed items.

Board Game Contest

Recruit employees to play a chosen board game. Create a pool around the winning team or allow employees to move/acquire a game piece for every returned pledge card.

Sports

Football Toss

Measure for distance and accuracy with prizes for top Guy and top Gal. Charge per attempt.

Golf Outing

Organize a golf outing for employees. Participants pay an entry fee. Have goofy prizes for highest score, most putts, longest game, etc.

Bowl-A-Thon

Organize a bowling contest at a local bowling alley or set up makeshift lanes at the office. Participants pay an entry fee. Give the winning team a prize.

Office Miniature Golf

Provide putters and build a nine-hole course featuring slinkies, staplers, chairs and other creative obstacles. Participants sign up in teams of two, with or without a registration fee.

Office Olympics

Make up your own "Olympic" games having a team admission fee. Brainstorm new ideas- roll the egg (not hardboiled) with your chin across the finish line without breaking it, relay race handing off a full glass of water on a tray using one hand spilling as little as possible, office chair races, waste basket free throw, paper airplane toss (use hula hoop as target). Use your imagination!

Tricycle Race

Run a tricycle race around your building or parking lot using children's tricycles. Entrants decorate their bikes and have that as a contest also. Have the staff place money on the one they think is going to win. Cookout after race.

Volleyball/Softball/Touch Football/Basketball Challenge

Play real or improvised games with teams of employees. Charge an entrance fee or a canned good for each participant. Spectators may wager for the winning team.

Favorite Football Team Day

Sell stickers that allow employees to wear football attire during the season. Host a tailgate party during lunch asking employees to bring their favorite dish.

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Nascar Scooter Race

Set up a speedway in your parking lot. Have each dept “sponsor” a Nascar scooter driver. Have pit teams, the national anthem, and maybe a doctor on hand. Sell raffle tickets to “spectators” to place their winning “bet” by placing their raffle ticket into a specific Nascar drivers bucket. When the race is over – a ticket is drawn from that drivers bucket for a prize. There are other things that could be incorporated to add dollars – add food sale, hot dogs, brats, or walking tacos for the spectators.

Food Related

Root Beer Float Sale

This is a welcomed activity for those hot summer afternoons in July and August.

Latte Stand and Giving Example

For more distinguished coffee drinkers, offer a latte-stand during a morning meeting. Remind them how much a cup of gourmet coffee or tea costs. Give examples of what giving up one cup of coffee, one soda or one candy bar a day can do for a person in need. Ask if they can donate that same amount (or more) each week to United Way.

Bake Sale/Cookie Exchange

Ask employees to bake their favorite cookies or other goodies. Sell plates of the treats to employees. Charge an additional fee for the recipe.

Employee Cookbook

Encourage employees to donate their favorite recipes to be collected, published and sold in a company cookbook. A variation of this theme is to sell books on golf, gardening, etc. Request employees’ children provide illustrations.

Candy Grams

Sell candy with your company or United Way’s logo on it. All proceeds go to the United Way.

Midnight Breakfast

If your organization has a third shift, charge employees for a midnight breakfast served by executives and other day employees.

Eating Contest

Who can eat the most in a given amount of time (hot dogs, pie, crackers, pickles, etc.)

Chili Cook-Off- VERY popular!

Employees cook their favorite chili. Organize a panel of “expert” judges to decide on the best recipe. Charge employees to sample and eat lunch or even have the employees vote.

Whipped Cream Sponge- or- Pie in the Face

Host a whipped cream throwing contest. Use sponges covered or pie tins filled with whipped cream and try to hit a target. Get management to be the targets and have employees pay to play.

Potluck Payoff

Organize a potluck lunch and have everyone bring a favorite dish. Charge employees to have lunch.

Bakery Cart

Wheel a serving cart through the workplace and sell bagels, doughnuts, cookies, Danish, coffee and juice, with proceeds going to United Way.

Good Neighbor BBQ

Join with other companies near your business to have a cook out with games and giveaways. Have a speaker present or invite families from area agencies to partake in festivities.

Year Round Activities

January

The 19th is National Popcorn Day. Why not turn your break room or conference room into a movie theater, show old movies or television shows, pop some popcorn and charge admission! Or, sell fresh- popped popcorn by the bag.

February

The obvious is Valentine’s Day. Help your co-workers with their shopping by selling chocolates or flowers, with the profits going to United Way.

March

The 23rd is National Chip & Dip Day. Celebrate by inviting co-workers to make their favorite dip or salsa recipe. Charge a fee to sample the entries and \$1 each for copies of the recipes.

April

Try an Easter Egg Raffle. Fill plastic Easter eggs with raffle numbers. People buy eggs or “chances” for springtime prizes such as potted flowers like tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and lilies.

May

The 15th is National Chocolate Chip Day. Sponsor a baking contest. Votes are cast for the best chocolate chip recipe with dollars or change.



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June

An Ice Cream Social is a great event for National Dairy Month. Set up an ice cream bar with a variety of favorite toppings. Charge employees by the scoop.

July

The 23rd is National Hot Dog Day.
Have a cook-out and play Hot Dog Trivia!

August

A Corn Roast is a great activity. Grill sweet corn and charge by the ear. Be sure to have plenty of salt and Wisconsin butter available!

September

Kick off your workplace campaign and the start of football season with a tailgate fundraiser!

October

Purchase a large pumpkin and charge per guess. Or ask a local business to donate pumpkins and have employees or departments carve and decorate them. Vote by placing money in a container for each pumpkin. Sell the carved pumpkins to raise more money.

November

Hold a "Frozen Turkey Bowl." Use 2-liter plastic bottles filled with water for bowling pins and a frozen turkey as a ball.

December

Employees bring in hand made or purchased ornaments to hang on a tree. After ornaments are collected, a raffle is held. Names/numbers are chosen until all ornaments are picked from the tree. Raffle tickets are sold for \$0.25 each or five for \$1.