

# Silent Auction Fundraiser

Silent auctions are effective fundraisers due to their engaging and entertaining nature, diverse revenue streams, higher perceived value of items, inclusivity, flexible formats, community-building aspect, sponsorship opportunities, low overhead costs, easy coordination, repeatability, flexibility in venue selection, and potential for creativity in event planning. They provide a versatile and inclusive fundraising model that attracts diverse participants and supports various causes.

## Here's a step-by-step guide to help you plan a successful silent auction fundraiser:

### 1. Planning Committee Formation:

- Assemble a diverse planning committee that includes both adults and youth members.
- Assign specific roles such as event coordinator, marketing, procurement, and logistics to involve youth in decision-making.

### 2. Set Clear Goals:

- Define specific fundraising goals for your group, including scholarships and transportation to/from camp.
- Discuss with the youth on achievable and exciting targets to give them a sense of ownership with the event.

### 3. Budgeting and Expenses:

- Create a budget that outlines expected expenses and potential revenue.
- Encourage youth involvement in budget discussions and decision-making.

### 4. Select a Date and Venue:

- Choose a suitable date that doesn't conflict with other church events or community happenings.
- Work with youth to select a venue that accommodates the expected number of attendees. Church basements/fellowship halls work great for this type of event!

### 5. Procurement of Items:

- Form a subcommittee, including youth, responsible for procuring items for the silent auction.
- Encourage creative and unique ideas for auction items, ensuring diversity in the selection.

## Fundraiser Idea

### 6. Marketing and Promotion:

- Create a marketing plan that includes social media, flyers, and announcements during church services.
- Involve youth in designing promotional materials and creating engaging content for social media.

### 7. Volunteer Recruitment:

- Develop a list of volunteer roles, including setup, registration, bid monitoring, and checkout.
- Invite youth to participate in volunteer roles that align with their interests and strengths.

### 8. Online Bidding Platform:

- Consider using an online silent auction platform to increase accessibility.
- Involve tech-savvy youth in researching and selecting an appropriate online platform.

### 9. Decorations and Ambiance:

- Engage youth in planning the visual elements of the event, such as decorations and ambiance.

### 10. Entertainment and Engagement:

- Plan entertainment or interactive activities to keep attendees engaged.
- Involve youth in brainstorming and organizing these activities.

### 11. Silent Auction Rules and Procedures:

- Clearly outline the rules and procedures for the silent auction.
- Ensure that youth understand and can explain these rules to attendees.

### 12. Auctioneer and Closing Ceremony:

- If applicable, select a charismatic auctioneer to facilitate the live portions of the auction.
- Involve youth in the closing ceremony to express gratitude, share success stories, and present the fundraising outcome.

### 13. Acknowledgment and Recognition:

- Recognize the efforts of youth in the planning committee during the event.
- Express gratitude publicly for their contributions during closing remarks.

## Fundraiser Idea

### 14. Follow-Up and Communication:

- After the event, involve youth in sending thank-you notes and updates to attendees.
- Share the success stories of the fundraiser and how the funds will benefit the youth group in going to SYC.

### 15. Reflection and Planning for Future:

- Gather feedback from both adults and youth to assess the event's success and areas for improvement.
- Encourage youth involvement in brainstorming and planning future fundraising events.

By involving youth in various aspects of planning and execution, not only will you enhance their sense of ownership, but you'll also infuse fresh ideas and energy into the silent auction fundraiser for the church summer camp.

# Item Ideas

Youth can contribute creative and unique ideas for silent auction items that resonate with their peers. Here are some item ideas that youth might come up with:

### 1. Custom Artwork or Crafts:

- Personalized paintings, drawings, or sculptures
- Handmade jewelry or accessories
- Crafted items like custom-designed T-shirts or tote bags

### 2. Tech and Gaming:

- Gaming night package with snacks and new or popular video games
- Virtual reality gaming experience
- Hand-painted gaming console or controller

### 3. Music and Entertainment:

- Private concert or performance by a local youth band or artist
- Playlist creation service with personalized song recommendations
- Dance lessons or choreography workshop

### 4. Adventure and Outdoor Activities:

- Guided nature hike or camping trip
- Paintball or laser tag outing
- DIY outdoor adventure kit (e.g., geocaching or stargazing kit)

### 5. Sports and Fitness Challenges:

- Personalized workout or fitness program
- Sports coaching session for a specific sport
- "Run a mile with a friend" challenge

### 6. Tech Workshops:

- Coding or programming workshop
- Smartphone photography class
- Social media strategy or content creation workshop

### 7. Themed Parties or Events:

- DIY party planning kit with decorations and ideas
- Movie night package with snacks and a curated film list
- Game night package with board games and snacks

## Fundraiser Idea

### 8. Food and Cooking:

- Cooking or baking lessons with a youth chef
- Homemade meal delivery service for a week
- DIY cooking kit with unique recipes and ingredients

### 9. Self-Care Packages:

- DIY spa day kit with skincare products
- Customized self-care basket with scented candles, bath bombs, and more

### 10. Photography Services:

- Photoshoot session (portrait, family, or pet photography)
- Photo editing or digital art services
- Photo collage or personalized scrapbook creation

### 11. Educational Services:

- Tutoring or homework help sessions
- Language learning sessions

### 12. Community Service Initiatives:

- Volunteer service package (e.g., yard work, pet sitting, or helping with chores)
- Car wash or lawn care service
- Personalized art project

Encourage youth to tap into their interests, skills, and hobbies when brainstorming ideas for silent auction items. These contributions not only showcase their creativity but also engage their peers in supporting the fundraising event.