

Fundraising ideas



Title of activity: UNIT MONEY SAVING IDEA – CARE 2 CALL

Submitted by: Daniel Gonzales

Name of YM unit: Chosen Young Marines, CA

Directions:

Visit www.Voicenation.com for free incoming phone number and fax number to 501c3 non-profits

Title of activity: UNIT COOKBOOK FUNDRAISER

Submitted by: Mike Eilerman

Name of YM unit: Jarrettsville Young Marines, NC

Directions:

Make unit cookbook, receive recipes from parents and sell books for \$20.00 – books cost \$8.00 to make.

Title of activity: SILENT AUCTION

Submitted by: Dina Dillon

Name of YM unit: SETA Young Marines (TN)

Directions:

Silent Auction – request items from businesses & set up items at hall during drill during drill of adults drilling (Navy/Marines)

Sell candles through a candle company

Basket Auction – request items from business and auction off – have it as part of a YM talent show between “acts”

Themed baskets – can have kids bring items – sports, summer, movie time themes

Title of activity: **WORKING AT THE CAR WASH**

Submitted by: Joe Lusignan

Name of YM unit: Young Marines National HQs

Directions:

Our most successful fundraiser is the old fashioned car wash with a twist, and we typically earn over \$5000 each time we hold it. The last couple car washes have been over \$10,000.

The twist?...***we pre-sell tickets.***

I've created a template on my computer that holds ten tickets on one sheet of paper. Each ticket is \$3. On each ticket will be a Young Marine graphic and the information for the car wash. After printing off the sheet, I duplicate it on a copy machine on card stock paper. Depending on the size of your unit, you can use a ream or more of paper. I use a paper cutter to cut each sheet so the tickets are the same size, stack them on top of each other and then staple them to each other. This creates "a book" of tickets worth \$30. If you have a unit of 50 Young Marines, and each one sells one book of tickets...you've made \$1500. Issue the tickets about a month prior to your car wash date.

How do you make it more successful? All our Young Marines are required to sell one book of tickets in order to participate in encampments, etc. We call this "making mission." The profit for that book goes to the unit. Once they've made mission, for every ticket they sell after the first book, the unit splits the profit with them. ½ goes to the unit, ½ goes into a second account in their name.

For example, if a Young Marine sells 2 books of tickets (\$60), \$30 from the first book goes to the unit, \$15 from the second book goes to the unit, \$15 from the second book goes into the Young Marine's account. The formula remains the same once they make mission whether they sell 2 books or 22. By helping the unit, they're helping themselves. We allow our Young Marines to use funds from their account to pay for Young Marine items or other activity expenses. This helps keep our hands out of the parents' pocket and helps those kids whose parents can't afford much to participate as well. Members of our unit traveled cross-country to visit Washington, DC, and many did not have to reach into their pockets because they used their Young Marine accounts.

We don't allow parents to just donate into their child's account; their fund grows by working with the unit. Also, if they leave the unit, the funds in their account revert back to the unit.

But today's society wants quick rewards. Well for those that want immediate gratification, we give prizes to our top three salespersons. Number one gets the salesmanship ribbon, but the top three all earn nice prizes that are outdoor or camping related. Then we set another "mission." For example, for those who sell more than 3 books, we may take them to a hockey game or something.

Another secret...don't have the kids go door to door, instead have a staff member or parent volunteer visit several grocery or department stores and ask for permission for a couple of kids at a time to sell tickets in front of their stores. Then schedule the kids, put them in uniform, with a parent supervisor, remind them about manners, behavior, appearance, etc., and then watch it happen. Don't forget to write letters of thank you to the stores that allow you to do this.

If this part is successful, your car wash day is going to be a busy one. Attendance for ours is mandatory. Your location should be in a large parking lot with access to water. We do ours in a school parking lot. We also set it up assembly line style with several lines, with cones to separate them. Make sure you have adequate adult supervision, as you don't want to be liable for damage to an expensive vehicle because of misbehavior. Mix water, sponges, soap and kids together and you're going to have a water fight...I mandate that ours holds off until after we've taken care of our customers and I throw in water balloons.

Finally, here's the argument for those folks that say they can't buy one because they'll be out of town for that day. I go to a local professional car wash and ask them for permission to print a \$3 off coupon on the back of our tickets. That way if our customer misses our car wash (or the lines are too long and they don't want to wait) they can go to this professional car wash. They save \$3 on their car wash, and the car wash company gets a bunch of new customers.

If you have any questions or if you'd like to save yourself some work, send me a request through my email at joe.lusignan@youngmarines.com and I'll send you a copy of the template I use. Change the information to reflect your own and you're on your way.

Title of activity: FLAG DAY FUNDRAISER

Submitted by: Chris Cicora

Name of YM unit: M.O.T. Young Marines, DE

Directions:

We pass out small American flags at convenience stores on flag day. The flags are free to all customers. We have a donation bucket if people want to make a donation. The flags cost us .29 cents each (4"X6"), and we make several hundreds of dollars in only a few hours.

Title of activity: PROMOTING YOUR UNIT THROUGH A DONUT SALE FUNDRAISER

Submitted by: Anthony (Tony) X. Watkins Sr., Unit Commander

Name of YM unit: Upper Marlboro Young Marines, MD

Directions:

When we sell Krispy Kreme donuts, each box has a sticker on it "*Thank you for your Support, Upper Marlboro Young Marines, www.umym.org*". Also, we recently we purchased an 8 foot banner that we display at our events.

Title of activity: MISCELLANEOUS FUNDRAISING IDEAS

Submitted by: Brenda Moreno

Name of YM unit: Douglas County Young Marines, CO

Directions:

We send out sponsorship letters with self addressed stamped envelopes every year. Each Young Marine sends out at least 10 and some go way above and beyond and write to all the businesses in the community. We will be doing Car Washes and a unit garage sale. We have sold Butter Braids, Coupon Books, and Cookie Dough. We applied for and received grants from the city and perform color guard ceremonies for companies that make a donation to the unit. We think of every event as a fundraising opportunity. PFT for Pennies, So many ways to make money that work!

Title of activity: FLOWER BULB FUNDRAISER

Submitted by: Danielle Pasler

Name of YM unit: Monroe County Young Marines, MI

Directions:

We do a flower bulb sale in both the spring and fall. We generally bring in at least \$600 per sale. We give prizes to the top seller of each fundraising activity.

Title of activity: FREE DINNER FOR VETERANS FUNDRAISER

Submitted by: Danielle Pasler

Name of YM unit: Monroe County Young Marines, MI

Directions:

For the past two years our unit has put on a spaghetti dinner on or around Veterans Day. We make it free to all the veterans and their spouses. We have a really good turnout and each year it's growing.

To make a little bit of money back, we set up our own store to sell our stickers, pins or other items.

We also leave out a donation jar. Even though the dinner is free, we usually make quite a bit of money on it. We make at least what we paid for it. We charge other family members \$5.00 and children are free.

Title of activity: LEAF "RELEAF"

Submitted by: Vikey Salley

Name of YM unit: Upper Valley Young Marines, OH

Directions:

First - You have to find out from the city or county when they will be picking up leaves. **Second** – You go out the weekend before to a neighborhood and passed out flyers that said Young Marines would rake your leaves for \$5.00 front and \$5.00 back yards or donation and put them on the curb for leaf pick-up.

Third - We gave a date when we would be doing it and if they wanted us to do their yard all the person had to do was put the money in the plastic bag with the flyer and tape it to the door in plain sight of street. **Fourth** – Then as we came down the street we would look for this fly on the front door and we would pull up and rake the yard that was marked on the flyer.

(LEAF RELEAF continued)

Once we got started we had people who came up to us and ask if we could do their yards too. We even had to extend the days we were going, because of the over whelming response we had we even had to turn people away. We all had people who did not want to have the yard rake but wanted to just make a donation to the young marines.

We had a great response for this.

Title of activity: RESTAURANT FUNDRAISER

Submitted by: Anthony (Tony) X. Watkins Sr.

Name of YM unit: Upper Marlboro Young Marines, MD

Directions:

Our Fundraiser Coordinator (Mrs. Freddi Lewis) went to the Silver Diner to plan the event with the manager. Our unit would receive 20% of the profit earned during our three hour block at the restaurant. We decided to plan the event during the time we would normally have drill (Wed, 6 – 9 pm) and made this the place of drill.

All Young Marines and their parents were given a folder that contained a Silver Diner menu, a gift card signup sheet and a flyer (they can make copies to pass out at work, church and other locations) to promote the event. Each Young Marine was asked to sell at least ten \$10.00 Silver Diner gift cards to earn a Salesman Ribbon; the unit receives 20% of all gift cards sold.

The Young Marines, parents and their guests were asked to use the gift card at the event; thus the unit earned actual 40% when a gift card is used that was sold through the unit. In addition, on the flyers we told them that we were having a raffle every 30 minutes on the half hour where we raffled \$10 gift cards (Target, Payless Shoes and a local grocery store). Each raffle ticket was \$2.00 which we asked all patrons to participate in upon their entrance. The Young Marines and staff seated customers, served food and distributed Silver Diner coupons. Our unit web page was another source for promotion the event. For more information visit their web site

http://www.silverdiner.com/community_involvement/schoolsandteams.html .

There are other restaurants that offer this type of fundraising.

<u>Title of activity:</u>	CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES
<u>Submitted by:</u>	Michael Guiles, Unit Commander
<u>Name of YM unit:</u>	Temecula Valley Young Marines, CA
<u>Props required:</u>	Nice quality Laser printer, 28lb 100 bright color printing paper, binding, envelopes, research time and stamps.

Directions: Design the Corporate package setup the pictures of your Young Marines first (this will take the most time). Make sure the pictures are of the Young Marines doing some sort of Community service those work the best.

Next work on your corporate letter we found the best way was just to ask for what we wanted and explain what we are doing. Research comes next you must do the research to find the president or CEO of the Corporation you are submitting your package to. Once this is done make an excel spreadsheet with all of the mailing info on it. Then Make the labels for the envelopes.

Once you have gotten your entire package together the way you like it now the time consuming part binding the packages you can save money if you can do this yourself or just take it to Staples or Office Max. ****Key point**** try not use fancy paper or binding any smart corporation would ask why do they need the money.

Once everything is done and the labels are put on the envelopes mail off your packages. You can expect a 2 week turn around or longer on the packages hope for at least a letter explaining why you did not get the company's support. This way you can reapply next year with what they are looking for. And if you do get a donation you will be happily surprised not disappointed with a letter or no reply. Never have your hopes up to high with a corporate sponsor.

Title of activity: **GIANT COIN TOSS RAFFLE**

Submitted by: Tracy Master, Fundraising Officer

Name of YM unit: Temecula Valley Young Marines, CA

Props required: 7 large plastic Jars

Directions: 1 or two wrapped basket prizes, 1 Huge Coin, String and 6 tent pins

Take the tent pins and place them into the ground making two squares of the same size. Using the string outline the two squares. One side of the square is heads the other side is tails.

Find a nice grassy picnic area for this event, stick the tent pegs into the ground and wrap the sting around the tent pegs to form two giant squares (****Note ensure you go back around and stick the tent pegs into the ground so they are flush for safety reasons**). Now tell everyone that one side of the square is heads and the other side is tails. Everyone is competing for a wrapped gift basket; once everyone is on whichever side they wish to be on. The CO will toss the coin in the air and call out heads or tails. If you are on the side that wins you go to the next round. If you are still in you can switch after each toss to either the heads or tails side. The last person in wins the prize. You can sell the Coin toss tickets for \$1 each.

Title of activity: **YOUNG MARINE MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE**

Submitted by: Stephanie Guiles, Unit Adjutant

Name of YM unit: Temecula Valley Young Marines, CA

Props required: All of your old Stuff

Directions: Pick a date and put an advertisement in the paper, penny saver or even on the local news. Make your sale about 30 to 60 days out and have everyone gather their old goods treasures to someone else. And sell, sell, sell.....

Title of activity: PENNY WARS

Submitted by: Tracy Master, Fundraising Officer

Name of YM unit: Temecula Valley Young Marines, CA

Props required: 7 large plastic Jars

Directions: Divide the Large Plastic jars into the unit's platoons and squads (i.e. 1st Plt. 1st Sqd, HQ's Plt.). Have all the Young Marines, Parents whoever drops only penny's into their Young Marines jars. If any silver or Green (Dollars) is dropped into the jars the amount of the Silver and Green is subtracted from the penny total.

This is a very easy competition the winner gets a day out with the CO Bowling, lunch, fun center. The first thing to do is to set an end date say 90 days. At every drill have the Young Marines drop pennies into their Squads Jars. Then and silver or green (Dollar bills) into the other squads jars remember 100 pennies make a dollar so if your drop 5 dollars into an opposing squads jar. They must take that amount away from their penny count. At the end of every drill all of the positive and negative monies are counted up and a running total is kept. When the competition is complete the winning team gets a day with the CO and the Unit keeps the winnings. You won't make thousands but you may make a few hundred dollars for the unit.

Title of activity: PIE THE UNIT COMMANDER IN THE FACE

Submitted by: Tracy Master, Fundraising Officer

Name of YM unit: Temecula Valley Young Marines (CA)

Props required: One wooden cut out (with a hole for the CO's head), make sure there is a funny body drawn on the wooden cutout for the kids to enjoy when the CO sticks their head through the hole. Paper plates, Lots of whipped cream, and big cans of pudding, and a CO with a great sense of humor.

Directions: Have the CO stick their head through the Wooden cut out hole, then have a senior Young Marine in charge of selling pies and another to make the pie. Have a Parent Volunteer or staff member draw two lines on the ground one for 8 -10 year olds and one for 11 year olds and up. Then let the pies fly (Make sure you have someone watch the line no going over it).

At a unit BBQ have a pie the CO in the face time, have the Young Marines, parents, staff, and siblings buy a pie for \$1 or \$2. Have a Senior Young Marine scoop a big spoonful of Vanilla or Chocolate pudding onto the plate and then add some whipped cream. Have the Young Marines walk up to their line and whip the pie at the CO.

Title of activity: **SILENT AUCTION DINNER**

Submitted by: Stephanie Guiles, Unit Adjutant

Name of YM unit: Temecula Valley Young Marines, CA

Props required: Gifts, time, motivation, location

Directions: When our unit does a silent auction dinner we usually switch it up every year. Sometimes we have a formal dinner, a Luau, A western theme, a Classics theme or just a casual them in which you can dress up or not. The main thing that is needed is gifts. We have an awesome parent support volunteer who calls, mails, emails, and stops by places to see if we can get any donations for our silent auction dinner. We usually get some really good support from the local stores you can usually get, an Ipod, tickets to movies, ball games, concerts etc....

After the gifts are rounded up or the process has started we search for our venue for the Silent Auction. This is key and really needs to match what type of dinner you will be having. You really do not want a formal dinner in a barn and parking in a pastor.

The Silent Auction is held by everyone bidding on a prize or outbidding someone else on the prize. You want to open this dinner up as much as possible, so we invite members of City Hall, Police and Fire Departments. If you don't open the dinner up then all of the staff and parents will be doing the bidding. The Young Marines are not invited to this event and that usually puts every one at the event at ease and more relaxed. If this is done right it can be a very prosperous event for you. Remember that you whatever the table setting is (i.e. \$40 per plate you need to increase this to make a profit).

Title of activity: **UNIT FAMILY FUN DAY**

Submitted by: Tracy Master, Fundraising Officer

Name of YM unit: Temecula Valley Young Marines, CA

Props required: A large Grassy field, or Picnic area

Directions: Invite all of your unit's family to your unit's picnic and BBQ; you can turn this into a large fundraiser if it is worked right. Start by having at least 1 basket for an auction and 2 more for the Giant coin toss. Have a few games then toss in Golf balls from heaven and Pie the CO in the face. And end the day with a profit for the unit and a lot of Unit Cohesion built up.

(UNIT FAMILY FUN DAY continued)

Once you find that perfect place set up the grills make sure you have parent volunteers to cook the food. You should be able to get some Hamburgers, hot Dogs and Buns donated to the unit for their fundraiser. Buy some chips and drinks and deserts and charge \$5 per plate of food. Before you eat the XO has to make everyone hungry the XO can take all of the Young Marines and their families and get them involved in a series of competitions and games. Games such as: three legged race, sack race, wheel barrow run, and a balloon toss. After the competitions eat some chow. Now for the prizes have the CO start the raffle drawing for a basket prize, then move over to the Huge Coin toss maybe some golf balls from heaven and then "Pie the CO in the face". At the end of the day when everyone is worn out and it is time to go home. Your unit just had a huge fundraiser, had a great time doing it and the unit camaraderie was spread throughout the Young Marines families.

Title of activity: **GOLF BALLS FROM HEAVEN**

Submitted by: Tracy Master, Fundraising Officer

Name of YM unit: Temecula Valley Young Marines (CA)

Props required: 100 or more Golf Balls, a Helicopter or Man lift, a big field or Golf Course, and a huge painted target.

Directions: Number each golf ball; give a numbered ball to a person when they purchase it. Sell the Golf balls for \$10 each the winner is the closes golf ball to the bull's eye. Put the huge painted target on the ground take the golf balls into the air and drop them. The winner gets a third of the total profits.

First off number all of the Golf Balls this is very important then you need to try and sell 100 or more golf balls for at least \$10 each in order for this event to work (give a salesmanship ribbon to the Young Marine who sells the most). Find a large open picnic area, field or a golf course (****Note Dirt lots or parking lots do not work as the golf balls will bounce and either break something or hurt seriously injure someone**).

Make sure that everyone who purchased a golf ball has their name next to a number on a golf ball. Now either hoist the golf balls into the air or take them up by helo. When everyone is a good distance away and you are no more then 100 feet up. Drop the Golf balls over the target the Golf Ball that is the closes wins a third of the total profit.

To make this event more cost effective try to work with a local Crane rental for a man lift at a good cheap rate. See if you can get the golf balls donated and maybe put a basket together from store donations (i.e. an IPod, movie tickets, Amusement park passes). Make sure the basket is worth at least \$300 in donated gifts. To make the event last longer make it the last event at a unit picnic.

Title of activity: FLAG DAY FUNDRAISER

Submitted by: Chris Cicora

Name of YM unit: M.O.T. Young Marines (DE)

Props required: Small American flags, donation bucket, location

We pass out small American flags at convenience stores on flag day. The flags are free to all customers. We have a donation bucket if people want to make a donation. The flags cost us .29 cents each (4"X6"). We make several hundreds of dollars in only a few hours.

Title of activity: FLOWER BULB FUNDRAISER

Submitted by: Danielle Pasler

Name of YM unit: Monroe County Young Marines (MI)

We do a flower bulb sale in both the spring and fall. We generally bring in at least \$600 per sale. We give prizes to the top seller of each fundraising activity .

Title of activity: INTERNET CREDITS

Submitted by: Denette Reid

Name of YM unit: Desert Devil Dogs (AZ)

www.vistaprint.com -- this company once signed up as a customer has specials for magnets, calendars (make your own) business cards, brochures, pens, post-its, tee-shirts all of which can be UNIT, BN, REG personalized and the company will give the unit a link of your own and the unit gets credits

Title of activity: CASH IS IN THE CAN

Submitted by: Ron Ponwall

Name of YM unit: Chesty Puller Young Marines (OH)

Have you unit collect aluminum cans. In Ohio they are \$.70 per pound and it only takes 25 cans to make a pound. The kids are learning positive environment saving & recycling. We average about \$2500 to \$3000 with little or no effort.

Title of activity: NO UTILITY PAYMENT

Submitted by: Steve Trusty

Name of YM unit: Upper Valley Young Marines (OH)

Have Young Marines donate \$5.00 not to wear their utility uniform for one nightly meeting and have a fun night with it.

Title of activity: REWARDS COUPONS

Submitted by: Lu Caldera

Name of YM unit: White Plains Young Marines (NY)

Coke soda caps (fridge-pack coupon) codes submitted to their “rewards” websites. We have be providing sling back packs to our YM’s through this rewards program. Have parents and friends collect these for you

Title of activity: STAMP FUNDRAISER

Submitted by: Denette Reid

Name of YM unit: Desert Devil Dogs Young Marines (AZ)

Save metered, un cancelled postage – fill out form at PO of same ZIP and receive reimbursement – 10% of total. We use tri-fold with zip code “packets” and the closest staff to that zip code turns in collections for that month.

Title of activity: STEAK FUNDRAISER

Submitted by: Nicole Logsdon

Name of YM unit: Unit 2000 (WV)

In May of 2008 Unit 2000 held a first annual Steak Fry. We had to book our entertainment – ours’ was a band. We sold support posters with \$25 business cards donations and sponsor could double the size at \$50. This will cover meat, soda, & entertainment fee for the band.

Adult staff canvassed for donated items to raffle off.

Title of activity: **APPLEBEE'S FUNDRAISER**

Submitted by: Cary Hill

Name of YM unit: Milton Lewis Young Marines (FL)

Pre-sell breakfast tickets (\$6.00)

Contact Applebee's restaurant and set a date. They get \$3.00, Unit gets \$3.00 and if buyer doesn't show unit keeps it all.

Title of activity: **POP CAN FUNDRAISER**

Submitted by: Patricia Borka

Name of YM unit: Genesee County Young Marines (MI)

Our unit has generated a "post card" briefly introducing our unit and the Young Marines stating that "we will be in your neighborhood on Saturday (date) collecting pop cans and bottles. If you would like to donate place them in plastic bags on your front porch for pick up".

We put our 501c3 number on the card to be used as a receipt.

We made over \$800 in one day .

Title of activity: **CONCESSION STAND FUNDRAISER**

Submitted by: Miriam Acevas

Name of YM unit: Southeast County Young Marines (CA)

Working at concession stand at stadium like college or professional sports events. We made over \$3,000 in one event last year.

Title of activity: MISC UNIT ACTIVITIES

Submitted by: Isa Diaz

Name of YM unit: Camp Pendleton Young Marines (CA)

Water Survival Skills & Swimming Pool Day

- Young Marines learn basic water skills then get to play in the pool.
- They also get to jump off a 12. 20 or 50 foot high tower – a great confidence builder
- During encampments as the sun sets we play “capture the flag” w/o weapons and we break the YM’s up in teams for this activity
- Young Marine Jeopardy before lights out where kids are brought together to play and take their “kid’s mind” off stuff that bores them
- Family Unit Field Meet (aka Family Fun Day) Pot luck/fun and games for all ages, dunk tank for CO & XO family relay races, Great way to include families, take a break from drill, and encourage physical fitness

Camp Pendleton YM’s also has a mud run, a Christmas party and gift exchange

Title of activity: POKER RUN

Submitted by: George Dillon

Name of YM unit: Clovis Young Marines (CA)

Have a motor cycle club put on a poker run for the Unit. Include a raffle prize (sell tickets).

Do a “walk-a-thon” and ask local businesses to match any funds that are generated.

Title of activity: PULL TICKETS

Submitted by: Ron Pownall

Name of YM unit: Chesty Puller Young Marines (OH)

Go to your American Legion, VFW’s, etc for those that have pull tickets. Most give approximately 10% to nonprofit organizations each quarter. We personally have 3 each quarter and they give us from \$500 to \$2500 per quarter

Title of activity: **RECYCLING HELPS**

Submitted by: Heather Hudson

Name of YM unit: First State Young Marines (DE)

Help out at the local animal shelter by turning in your empty water bottles and can. Not only will you be helping the environment by recycling but it will get the kids involved by helping to raise money for the animals.

Title of activity: **VARIOUS FUNDRAISERS**

Submitted by: Bill Woods

Name of YM unit: Capital Area PA Young Marines

Local Pizza Shop donated 5% of sales for two days. We made up coupons and gave to each YM to pass out to neighbors, relatives, parents co-workers.

Coupon specified place, date and time of fund raiser and how much the pizza shop would donate of their total bill to the local YM unit.

We also have sub and pretzel sandwich fund raisers with a local sandwich shop

Collect cans for recycle and donate tabs to the State to finance a Seeing Eye dog

Title of activity: **WALMART FUNDRAISER**

Submitted by: Bob Borka

Name of YM unit: Genesee County Young Marines (MI)

Wal-Mart Local stores have a matching grant program for fundraisers.

If a unit does a fund raising event and earns \$1000 (example), a matching grant application can be filled out and submitted to Wal-Mart. Our unit did this for \$1000 and received a check from them for \$1000.

We did a flower bulb sale and earned 50% profit from the sale price. This generated about \$500 for the unit. This fund raiser was done in the spring and fall.