



## Fundraising project ideas

Need some ideas? Check out this list! These are just suggestions, so adapt them to suit your club. Remember, all projects need good planning, enthusiasm and club support.

### Activity board

Buy an activity board for the school. One member can be assigned to maintain it throughout the week and add announcements for school activities and sports events. Sell advertising on a weekly basis, and use revenue to pay for the board.

### Aluminum cans

Collect cans and flatten them in a race to see who can collect the most for the recycling center. The money from the center can be used to treat contest winners to prizes and to purchase recycling containers for the school.

Provide recycling containers at the cafeteria exits so students can discard aluminum cans. Once or twice a month, take the cans to the recycling center.

### Bake-off

Sponsor a bake-off between the high school athletic teams, clubs or faculty. Charge an entry fee. After the competition, sell the baked goods during a school lunch hour or after school.

### Bake sale

Bake food and arrange to sell treats at school or local events. This project is most successful when planned for the holidays or during finals week.

### Barbecue dinners

This is an especially good project to do in early fall. Food usually can be secured wholesale. This project would be ideal before a school sporting event. Sell tickets prior to the dinner, and make sure you promote the event.

### Birthday kits

At the beginning of the school year, send a direct mail order to students' parents selling birthday kits. Deliver birthday cakes, donuts, cookies, balloons or something similar to students celebrating birthdays.

If the club does a one-time sale, it alleviates an ongoing problem of accurate ordering. This project would require strong committee organization.

### Buttons

During sporting events, sell buttons with pictures of athletes in uniform.

### Candy and nut sales

Caramels, chewing gum, hard candy, nuts, chocolate and other treats are excellent sale items any time, but especially during the holiday season.

### Car smash

An old car usually will be donated to a club by a service station or a junk yard. (Or ask members of your sponsoring Kiwanis club for help.) After painting the name of a rival school on the car and removing the glass, charge a fee for each swing at the car with a sledgehammer. Publicity and active support from your principal are extremely important.

### Car washes

Shopping centers or gas stations usually will provide a place for this profit-maker. Sell tickets in advance, and promote the event.

### Carnival night

A hall or auditorium can be decorated to suit the theme of the carnival. Offer a range of activities, such as a cakewalk and age guessing. Sell refreshments and provide entertainment, too.

### Chili cook-off

Whether your club just participates by entering a cook-off or actually organizes a contest, you can raise funds. Involve your Kiwanis club in the planning.

### Christmas trees

The sale of Christmas or holiday trees involves a good deal of money and a lot of planning. Team up with your sponsoring Kiwanis club.

### Coat checks

Have members of the club offer this service at high school functions. This project offers 100 percent profit, but keep in mind that it will take several

events to earn a big amount of money. Keep costs reasonable.

### **Concession stands**

Many clubs operate concession stands for parades, fairs, festivals, athletic events, plays or other school functions. This activity can be very lucrative and should be investigated as a possible project. You may wish to divide your proceeds with the sponsor to demonstrate your support and appreciation for allowing you to be a part of its event.

### **Daffodils**

Purchase daffodils from the American Cancer Society in March, and then give them to teachers. Contact the society to see if your club could sell the daffodils.

### **Dances**

Your Key Club can sponsor a dance after a sporting event. This is a good moneymaker if it's promoted well.

### **Date-match**

During Valentine's Day week, pass out compatibility surveys. Then sell the lists of compatible students for a profit.

### **Desk mats**

Sell ads to businesses, the school store or even school organizations wishing to advertise. The ads are printed on a standard-size blotter or desk mat, along with schedules of football and basketball games, a calendar for the year, list of class officers and anything else you want. Ads should cover the cost plus profit, and blotters can be sold at a minimum cost or simply distributed to the students.

### **Donate time to PTA**

Help parent/teacher associations with projects, baby-sitting or fundraising.

### **Donuts and pizza**

Through arrangements with donut shops and pizzerias, food can be brought in at a relatively low cost when bought in large numbers. Sell donuts before classes or during lunch. Pizzas sell well at evening events that draw large crowds.

### **Face painting**

Set up a face-painting booth at games, carnivals, etc.

### **Finals survival kits**

Sell final exam survival kits for students by advertising through student publications, radio and by direct mail, if possible. Target parents. The kits can include a can of Coke or Pepsi, candy bar,

pens/pencils, gum, jokes, inspirational messages, coupons, etc. Deliver these in school via homeroom, lunch periods or study halls.

### **Flea market**

Collect junk from members, classmates and Kiwanis members, and then sell it at a local flea market.

### **Florida fling**

Sponsor a Florida fling—a dance with a Sunshine State theme. Write to cities in Florida and travel agencies to get posters to decorate the gymnasium. When students buy tickets to this event, they receive a shirt with the Florida fling logo on it. Participants come to the dance ready for the beach. Similar themes include Caribbean cruise, Mexican fiesta and Hawaiian luau.

### **Hairy leg contest**

Advertise the contest well ahead of time. Photograph contestants' legs and tape the pictures to glass jars. One vote costs a quarter. Ask businesses for prize donations.

### **Halloween party**

Sponsor a community Halloween party for kids in the gymnasium. Provide an entertaining evening for everyone, including children's parents, and donating what you raise to Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF.

### **Haunted house**

Work with a mall to see if it has an open room. Choose a theme. Work with your sponsoring Kiwanis club to secure materials and assistance in building and working the event. This makes a great fundraiser around Halloween.

### **Holiday bazaar**

A holiday bazaar open to the public is a great fundraiser. Secure a location, sell spaces—including a concessions area—arrange for set-up and take down helpers, decorate the venue and request a radio announcement. Local craftsmen count on the same date each year, which seems to ensure a successful turnout. This project has minimal costs to Key Club and is financially beneficial.

### **Homecoming flowers**

Mums for football games or homecoming weekends usually can be bought for about US\$3 each and resold for US\$3.50 or more. Contact a florist.

### **Jukebox**

Work with your school administration to buy a jukebox for the cafeteria. Not only does this bring in money, but it also makes lunchtime more lively!

### **Junior high fundraiser**

A noon dance is a favorite fundraiser. Admission to the dance is fifty cents. Work with the junior high school's administration to organize this type of function.

### **Just like the good old days**

Homecoming week is a great time to sponsor a community picnic. Ask all school groups and clubs to set up booths to sell food or products (such as T-shirts). Open up the picnic to the entire community.

### **Key Club/faculty sporting events**

Ask the most popular teachers to participate, and select club members to play against the teachers.

### **Kiss a senior goodbye**

Take pre-orders and pre-payments for bags of Hershey's kisses and messages for graduating seniors. These can be advertised and sold during lunch periods and before and after school. Parents enjoy sending these to their graduates, so find a way to advertise to them as well.

### **Lights, camera, goodbye**

Give each senior 45 seconds in front of a video camera to say farewell. The tape can include shots of prom and graduation. Students can have one copy if they supply a blank, recordable DVD. This is virtually a cost-free fundraiser.

### **Lock-in**

Have an overnigher at the local Y. Watch movies, go swimming and have fun. This event takes a great deal of planning and adult support, so make sure you're organized.

### **Lost and found auction**

Conduct an auction with the school's abandoned items in lost and found.

### **May baskets**

Accept pre-orders/pre-payment for delivery (either in school or to area elementary and junior high schools) on May Day. Decorate jumbo drinking cups and fill them with candy (buy it in bulk or from a vendor), balloons, coupons and gum. Try to get as many of the materials donated as possible.

### **Miracle mile of quarters**

This is an easy project to do on a daily basis in a high school setting or for a district project/district convention. Determine the charity and advertise it well. Make paper quarters and, for every US\$.25 donated, post or tape a paper quarter to the wall. Determine a goal and end date.

### **Movie parties**

Acquire recent, full-length motion pictures for showing at your high school. Charge prices for admission and host the party in either a standard auditorium or a more informal venue. Look online for motion picture distributors.

### **Music week**

Take a week to celebrate different musical eras. One day could be music from the '50s, the next day could celebrate music from the 1800s. Ask Key Club members to dress up according to that day's era. At the end of the week, transform the school's tennis courts into a little piece of Hawaii. Host fun activities such as pie throwing, a dunking machine and a wheel of fortune. Hand out flower leis and play Hawaiian music.

### **Old books and CDs sale**

Collect old books and CDs and sell them for low prices. Limit the hours of the sale, and try to sell out during the allotted time. Some clubs run a regular used bookstore and exchange center for their school.

### **Pancake breakfast**

A pancake breakfast can be a high-profit fundraiser. It also can be fun, easy to organize and an excellent joint Key Club-Kiwanis project. Don't overlook the sale of placemat advertising. The income derived from ad sales often exceeds the breakfast profits.

### **Parking cars**

Park cars for school events. Check with your school's administration about how to proceed with this project.

### **Peanut day**

Team up with other club members to stand in groups in public places and accept donations in exchange for a bag of peanuts. Attach small Key Club brochures to the bag along with a note explaining how the money will be used. For complete information on organizing such an event, contact: Kiwanis Peanut Day Inc., 900 Jorie Blvd., Oak Brook, IL 60521.

### **Powder puff football**

The girls put on uniforms and play a football game—after first modifying the rules. The boys lead the cheers! The novelty of this idea, if well publicized, will attract a large crowd. Money comes from ticket and refreshment sales. This is an ideal homecoming week activity.

### **Prom flowers**

Take orders for prom corsages and boutonnieres. Work with a florist to make the biggest profit.

### **Rummage sale**

This is a very popular sale of used odds and ends. The collection of goods can be made door-to-door or solicited through ads.

### **Save or shave**

Choose a faculty member who is willing and ready to donate his beard for a fundraiser. Students then vote with money whether the beard should be saved or shaved. (It is hopefully shaved at a school assembly.)

### **School bazaar**

This kind of activity can be a joint effort with all the clubs in your school. The Key Club, along with other interested clubs, can operate various booths throughout the day. All proceeds can go to a charity or to a school improvement project.

### **School dances**

Take any opportunity to sponsor a dance on school grounds with the school's permission. This can be an easy way to make money. Hire an inexpensive deejay, or produce your own music/dance playlists and find someone with a great stereo system. Also, approach area junior high principals to see if they would allow you to sponsor a dance for junior high students. Remember to check your school's rules beforehand.

### **Scooping for money**

Host a "Make Your Own Sundae" event. Schedule this project during lunch.

### **Senior auction**

Auction off your seniors. "Sell" them to school faculty or Kiwanians who have a simple odd job for them to do, such as raking leaves, pet-sitting or painting. The money raised from this sale can go toward a deserving graduating senior's college expenses.

### **Spirit sweats**

Sell sweatshirts and pants—printed with the school name, logo and colors—to students. Work with a local vendor to get the best price.

### **Sports programs**

Publish basketball game programs for your varsity team. Sell ads to local merchants and have the programs printed in the school's commercial office. Distribute the programs at the door free of charge.

### **Sport tournaments**

Host a sports tournament in conjunction with homecoming, prom or another social event. Many sport tournaments make money, and they can be a

lot of fun at the same time. Some suggestions: basketball, baseball, table tennis, golf and pool.

### **Spring sales**

Collect gently used items door-to-door for the sale. Print out advertisements and hand them out at grocery stores.

### **Throw 'em in jail**

"Jail and bail" is a popular fundraiser. Build the jail out of cardboard and paint and place it in a large, open area such as a cafeteria. For the first two days, put students, teachers and administrators in "jail" for two days of arrests. Sell arrest warrants for one dollar. Charges can range from skipping class to imitating a student. On the third day, serve warrants during homeroom. Criminals must raise \$5 for bail or spend their free period in the jail.

### **Sweetheart ball**

Host a sweetheart ball around Valentine's Day. Rent the ballroom of a local hotel or conference center. Make sure the event receives adequate publicity, decoration planning and pre-event ticket sales.

### **Talent shows**

Host a talent show in conjunction with Key Club Week, homecoming, spring fling or another event. Host auditions for an emcee. Include several student acts and some Key Club skits for a successful variety night. Key Clubbers should usher, serve as doormen and sell refreshments.

### **"Fundraise-a-thons"**

Sponsor a dance-a-thon, rock-a-thon, bowl-a-thon, game-a-thon, swing-a-thon, teeter totter-a-thon, or whatever your club wants to do! Donate the proceeds to a charity.

### **Traffic safety week**

Sponsor a traffic safety week in your school or town. Kick off the week with a presentation from a police officer. The rest of the week can be filled with other activities, such as a driver road-eeo, traffic safety poster contest or seatbelt education day for the community.

### **Turkey grams/ghoul grams/bunny grams**

For a small fee, sell "grams" during various holidays. These grams can be a card with some candy or small prize. Bonus points: Get club members to volunteer to do singing telegrams for an additional fee.

### **Turkey teacher competition**

Line a table or wall with photos and names of teachers who wish to participate. Ask students to bring in money or canned food and place it under

the name of their favorite teacher. The teacher with the most money and ounces of food wins. That teacher must either wear a turkey costume or carry a stuffed toy turkey all day. He or she also wins a turkey dinner. Donate the canned food and money to a nearby food bank or shelter.

### **Silly teacher contest**

Display pre-approved photos of faculty members during the lunch hour. Students vote for the silliest photo with donations. Donations are sent to your club's chosen charity.

### **Ushers**

Some organizations will pay very well for ushers at sports games, plays and other events.

### **Valentine's Day kisses, flowers or cookies**

This holiday provides many opportunities for fundraising. Selling bags of Hershey's kisses (and delivering them in school) is an easy project. Try taking orders for red, pink or white carnations with in-school delivery, or selling Valentine cookies during a lunch period or before or after school.

### **Weigh and pay**

Host a supper or luncheon, preferably a social event, and charge each person a penny a pound for whatever she or he weighs. You'll need a weigh station booth at the door. Try this with your sponsoring Kiwanis club.

a Kiwanis-family member

[keyclub.org](http://keyclub.org)

3636 WOODVIEW TRACE INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46268 USA  
1-317-875-8755 • US AND CANADA: 1-800-KIWANIS • E-Mail: [keyclub@kiwanis.org](mailto:keyclub@kiwanis.org)

Revised 11/13