



## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS DISTRICT GUIDE

for more information, visit [www.nacdnet.org](http://www.nacdnet.org)

# Fun ways to FUNDRAISE

*Consider the following fundraisers to raise money for specific projects or activities. Each activity contains a projection for the recommended dollars invested, charged and earned. All activities can be adapted to fit your organization, your needs and your community.*

*By exploring different fundraising opportunities, you will add extra money to your yearly budget for staff, extra training and travel—potentially expanding your customer base in the community as well.*

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### **GUN RAFFLE WITH 2 DECKS OF CARDS (GUN DONATED) = \$2,080 (APPROXIMATE)**

» ANOTHER DESIRED ITEM MAY BE SUBSTITUTED FOR THE GUN, DEPENDING ON YOUR AUDIENCE «

**This requires one or two decks of playing cards.** If you use two decks, be sure they are not identical. You will be selling each card for \$20. Do not sell the cards until your event happens, but be sure to let your audience know if it is only one or two decks of cards; this will help them identify their odds of winning. When you sell a card, let the buyer choose their card, then tear it in half. Give the buyer one half and keep the other half for the drawing. The drawing occurs only when all the playing cards are sold. **The half of the playing card you draw will be the winner.** Have fun with the audience in revealing the winner by narrowing the winner down by the color of card, the suit, and then finally revealing the exact card. *Please be sure to check with the gun dealer on the necessary paperwork beforehand so you can let your winner know what they need to do after they win.*

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## **SOUVENIR PLASTIC CUP FOR \$5.00 AT AN OPEN BAR = \$350 (APPROXIMATE)**

» PURCHASE OF THE CUP IS NOT MANDATORY «

**Buy a box (500) of 8oz plastic drinking cups with the state association or district logo.** Set up a table at the entrance to the event, reception or dance. Request a \$5 donation per souvenir cup – the purchase is not mandatory to attend the event. If it is an open bar, you need to discuss with the hotel providing the bartenders to make sure they will make the drinks in the cups. Sometimes the bartenders will charge you (the district or the state association) for a double shot of liquor in these cups, because the cups are larger than a regular drinking glass. This can cost the district or state association more for the drinks made in the cups and can get expensive. Just be sure you work it out with the hotel, caterers and bartenders beforehand. The incentive to buy the cup? **One cup has a secret mark on it!** *Whoever has the special cup gets a \$25 cash prize. Make sure the marked cup is sold before announcing the surprise.*

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## **POTTERY RAFFLE AT \$5.00 PER PERSON = \$700 - \$800 (APPROXIMATE)**

This is an event specially designed for an annual meeting. **Contact a notable local potter and ask them to donate or cut the price on their products.** Procure one of their large pieces and sell raffle tickets for \$5 each. **Hold a drawing at the luncheon or banquet.** Add a little fun by making a spinning wheel that has numbers one through three on it. After selling tickets, spin the wheel and the number it lands on is how many times each person may place their name in the drawing. This just adds a little more fun. *(Be sure that the numbers one and two are much more frequent than the number three on the spinning wheel, so you don't end up giving away too many tickets which would cut in to your potential gains.)*

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## **QUILT RAFFLE WITH SQUARES FROM ALL SWCDS = \$3,500+ (APPROXIMATE)**

This fundraiser was developed for the state association. **Each district makes a quilt square, or pays \$25 to have a quilt square made for them.** A quilt is made from all the squares and displayed at all district annual meetings, state fairs and state garden club events. Tickets are \$1 and sold year-round. Each district is given 100 tickets to sell. **A raffle will determine the winner**

**of the quilt.** *The district that sells the most is recognized at the annual meeting and given a \$100 cash prize.*

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### **SILENT AUCTION WITH DONATED ITEMS FROM SWCDS = \$4,000+ (APPROXIMATE)**

**Districts, local businesses or individuals donate items (anything from dog food, art prints, jewelry, boxes of sweet potatoes...anything).** Usually, a silent auction is held during state association annual meetings. Attendees walk around the tables and sign their name beside the price they are willing to pay for that item (the bid sheets are in \$2 intervals). The auction opens on the first day of a three-day meeting and closes at noon on the third, in order for people to get their items paid for before going home. *Be sure to announce when the auction is about to close; it is fun to see people stand guard over items that really want to make sure their name is the last name (highest bidder) on the sheet!*

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### **LIVE AUCTION WITH 70 DONATED ITEMS = \$15,000+ (APPROXIMATE)**

**For your live auction, choose no more than 70 large, expensive items donated by districts, local business or individuals.** (If you have too many items, the auction may run too long.) Sometimes, the less-expensive items are better-suited to the silent auction to raise money. NACD conducts a live auction every year at their annual conference to raise money for their legislative fund. Make sure you have a good auctioneer who can keep the crowd excited, energized and spending money! Advertise the items ahead of time, if possible. *Be very organized with paperwork, keeping track of both the donor and the buyer for each item.*

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### **DRAW DOWN = \$1,000+ (APPROXIMATE)**

**Tickets are sold at \$100 each.** The announcer draws names at various intervals. Those names are no longer in the running for the money prize (\$10,000). Some variations of this fundraiser allow these people to buy their way back in. **Since the prize is \$10,000, you will need to sell lots of tickets to make any money.** You can modify this game several ways to fit your event or organization. NACD holds this fundraiser during Live Auction at their annual meeting and it is

always a big success. NACD's tickets cost less, but include a much larger audience. *The rules established for NACD's Draw Down are at the end of this handout.*

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## **GOLF TOURNAMENTS**

Golf tournaments can be big fundraisers, if executed properly. Most fees to play are \$125 per person or \$500 per team. **The organization needs only to pay the green fees, which are usually \$25-\$75 per person.** Individual Strokes or Four-Man Scramble are popular game choices. Teams are chosen by filling out a form; An A, B, C, and D player are placed on the teams to keep the teams from being staked. You may also want to have an auction along with the golf tournament, featuring items donated by local businesses. You may also consider asking local businesses or individuals to sponsor each hole. Sell \$5 Mulligans (one more putt or shot) and give small prizes (usually something that has been donated to you) for longest drive and closest to the hole. One hole may have a chance to win a car, if someone hits a hole in one; chances are sold for a price for this opportunity. **There are many more options that each group can use to change the golf tournament to fit their players and increase excitement and fundraising opportunities.** The golf tournament can be held before or after a state association or regional meeting, or even in a district meeting. *This kind of event draws participants outside our normal customer base, introducing them to conservation and the district. "Outsiders" will come play golf if it is advertised and the awards are large enough.*

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## **POKER RUN**

**This event can be done with motorcycles or boats.** Plenty of volunteers are needed. Usually the players pay an entrance fee anywhere from \$25 - \$100. A paid registration provides them participants with a meal and t-shirt. Be sure to advertise your district and sponsors on the shirt. There are five to seven stops where your participants will need to pick up a card. You will need to have a volunteer at each stop to give the players/participants a card. Be creative when selecting your stops – sights of interest in the community or even areas of conservation education. There is a general meeting place in the morning, a deadline to leave that general meeting place, and a place to turn in your cards. **The players turn in their poker hand and the best hand wins the prize: usually a cash award has been advertised in advance.** When the Poker Run is over, the meal

and entertainment are provided. *This will reach people outside our regular audience and give districts an opportunity to teach them a little about conservation through handouts and the use of knowledgeable volunteers, who will be able to answer questions about conservation at the stops.*

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## **5K RUN**

**Runners pay a fee to participate and receive a T-shirt with paid registration.** Be sure to advertise your district and sponsors on the shirt. Offer a prize for the winner. This event requires extra efforts to coordinate with the city, as they may need to close streets. *You will also need numerous volunteers to assist.*

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## **SELLING ITEMS AT YOUR DISTRICT OFFICE**

Advertise the items you have for sale in your office, district newsletter and website. Sell things that your customers would use or need, but make sure you don't have another local source for these items.

- Wildflower Seed
- Rain Barrels
- Blue Bird Boxes
- Duck Boxes
- Bat Houses
- Trees
- Plants
- Wildlife planting mix
- Beaver cages (go on pipes to keep them from getting stopped up by beavers)
- Rent conservation equipment to your customers Editions of monopoly featuring your city or hometown

## **NACD DRAW DOWN RULES**

1. Tickets for the Draw Down are \$20 each (Cash Only)
2. A minimum of 50 tickets must be sold before the draw down can begin.
3. In the event 50 tickets are not sold, all money will be refunded.
4. The Draw Down will be conducted during the Live Auction.
5. A few tickets will be drawn at intervals during the auction.
6. The names on those tickets will appear on the screen.
7. When a name appears on the screen, that person may buy back into the Draw Down for an additional \$20 ONLY from the time their name first appears on the screen until the next round of tickets are drawn.
8. When there are only 10 tickets left to be drawn, no one may buy back in to the Draw Down.
9. The last 10 names will be called on to stand.
10. These 10 tickets will be put back in for the final Draw Down.
11. As the names are drawn, those people will be asked to sit down.
12. The last two persons standing will receive \$500.