



United Way
of the Brazos Valley

SPECIAL EVENT IDEAS

Just some helpful ideas for planning additional special events. If you host a special event, let us know. A United Way representative would love to be there to take pictures and support your efforts!

Sports Events - For All Kinds of Office Athletes

Golf tournament or putt-putt contest: Work with a nearby golf course to get reduced rates. Charge players the regular price with proceeds going to United Way. Humorous prizes can be handed out later at a potluck dinner (i.e. shortest drive, highest score, etc.) Set up a miniature golf course within your own office, lobby, or work area. Charge each player to play and award a prize to the player with the lowest score.

Aerobic-a-thon: Employees get pledges for the length of time participating. Set this up during a lunch hour or after work in the employee lunchroom.

Walk-a-thon: Employees get pledges for distances walked.

Tricycle races: Before the race, employees pay to have sandbags or rolled pennies tied to opposing department managers' tricycle. Hold the race in the lunch-room or outside. The first one to the finish line wins a prize for the department (i.e., pizza party).

Tug-of-war: Have employees against executive staff or interdepartmental competition. Each team pays a fee to enter.

Slam dunk contest: Charge a fee to compete and provide a prize for the winner.

Team sports competitions: Form teams between departments, divisions, branches or regions and get pledges for goals scored, baskets made, etc. Provide refreshment stands.

Ping Pong tournament: Charge an entry fee and have team elimination. Award winning team with a prize.

Bowling tournament: Get a bowling alley to reduce normal fees. Charge participants the regular price with proceeds going to United Way. Participants can get pledges for the number of pins knocked over.

Office Olympics: Set up an obstacle course in the lunchroom, several offices, several floors of offices, or outside. One station can be for typing a couple of paragraphs, another station for filing, another for photocopying, etc. The contestants pay an entry fee and the winner gets the prize.

Bike-a-thon: Charge an entry fee. Participants collect pledges for the number of miles they ride.

Croquet tournament: Set up a croquet course on a nearby lawn. Charge an entry fee and provide a prize for the winner.

Fun run: Charge an entry fee to compete and provide a prize for the winner.

Tennis or racquetball tournaments: Charge admission and an entry fee to participants. The winner gets a prize.

Super hoop: Have an organized basketball tournament with employee teams. Charge admission to the game. Give away prizes at halftime. Get a local radio station to MC.

Auction/Sales

Lunch box auction: Employees supply lunches to be auctioned off. Give prizes for the most creative or elegant lunches.

Executive auction: The executive must take over the highest-bid employee's job for half a day.

Home-grown auction: Employees donate random items for auction such as cakes, cookies, monthly parking spots, a weekend at their summer cabin, or a home-cooked dinner. Services such as car detailing, a month of lawn-mowing, and wallpapering also may be auctioned.

Rummage sales: Employees donate items to be sold in the parking lot or cafeteria.

Food - The Way to a Donor's Heart

Bake sale; candy bar or popcorn sale

Pie-eating contests

Lunch-time spaghetti or chili feed, or barbecue; pancake feed

Octoberfest theme with sausage or bratwurst lunches

Ice cream social

Cheesecake sale

Contests - Better Odds Than the Football Pool

Ugly tie or hat contest: Executive staff members wear their ugliest ties or hats and solicit "votes" (a vote is \$1) from employees. The person with the most votes at the end of the day wins the prize.

Match the baby face contest: Employees bring photos of themselves as babies. Other employees buy ballots listing the photos by number and guess which baby is who. A prize goes to the employee who correctly identifies the most babies.

Nintendo Switch or Playstation contest: Set up three or four video machines in a small conference room. Employees pay to play and try to beat the previous players' scores. This can take place over several days with many repeat players. The winner at the end of the contest time period wins a prize.

Coloring contest: Use the United Way of the Brazos Valley logo. Have children of employees participate.

Look-a-like contest: Employees dress up like famous personalities such as Marilyn Monroe or Elvis. Employees pay to vote on the best costume. The contestant receiving the most votes gets a prize.

Quiz: Make up an IQ test based on United Way facts. Award prize(s) to employees with the most correct answers. This is a fun, challenging way to increase knowledge about United Way.

Most humorous photo contest: Employees bring humorous photos to work. Employees vote with quarters for the funniest. The winning photographer gets a prize.

Games: Trivial Pursuit; Win Lose or Donate; Wheel of Fortune (use questions or clues related to United Way)

Lip sync contest: Hold a lunch-time lip sync contest. Charge an entry fee and have the audience vote for the best act. Give a prize to the winner.

Kiss the pig contest: Executive staff members collect one-dollar votes all day. The executive with the fewest votes at the end of the day has to kiss a pig in front of the entire office.

Other Ideas - Almost Anything Goes

Compliment-o-grams: Make up special forms and sell them to employees as an anonymous way to give a compliment to someone in the office. Compliment-o-grams must be delivered by a trustworthy employee sworn to secrecy. Charge a dollar per compliment.

Balloon-o-grams: Employees have messages tied to helium balloons delivered to designated co-workers. Charge a dollar per balloon.

Penny jar: Each department has a jar and each penny equals a point. Anything else equals its value in negative points. For example, a dime is minus 10 points. The department with the most positive points at the end of a week wins a prize.

Car wash: Employees pay to get their cars washed in the parking lot during the work day.

Dunk tank: Set up a dunk tank in the parking lot. Have executives take turns on the "hot seat." Charge 50 cents per try.

Soak the boss: Employees pay 50 cents per wet sponge to throw at an executive staff member.

Dress down for United Way: Employees pay a dollar to wear casual clothes on a specific work day during the campaign. Each employee who participates gets a United Way button.

Treasure hunt: Sell daily clues to a mystery location where a treasure is hidden. The first employee to guess the location wins the treasure.

Executive shoe shine: The company executives set up a shoe shine stand in a heavy traffic area. The executives shine employees shoes for an United Way donation.

Cookbook sales: Have employees donate recipes and put them together in a cookbook. Give away samples of food while selling the cookbooks.