



# Fundraising Ideas

Hi,

Thanks so much for signing up to this great event. We fully appreciate how hard it is to not only train for either a half or full marathon, but to raise money in the process too. To help you along the way we have put together some fundraising ideas. Some are a bit weird and wacky but all have the potential to get you closer to your target amounts.

We wish you the very best of luck!

Ken & Gerry

P.S. We'd love if you could send us any snaps you have of your fundraising efforts so that we can put them up on our Facebook page! Send images to [info@32marathons.com](mailto:info@32marathons.com)

**Antiques Fair** - a great chance to clear out the attic and raise a few Euros!

**Art Exhibitions** - Could be a great earner if you're a dab hand with a paintbrush. Even if you're not, give it a go and pass it off as modern art!

**Auction of Promises** - Visit local businesses and ask them to donate their services for you to auction off. Or rope in your friends, who could promise to wash cars, mow lawns or do housework for the highest bidder.

**Arm Wrestling** - Charge your mates - or the local rugby/footie/any testosterone driven team - to arm wrestle one another. Probably best tried at your local pub.

**Arts or crafts stall** - Let your imagination go wild and reap the rewards. Try making greetings cards, pot pourri or jewellery to sell.

**Baby-sitting** - Go on, give your family/friends a night off (just make sure you charge!)

**Back to Front Day** - Get sponsored to wear your clothes the wrong way round for a whole day. Very entertaining too!

**Bad Tie day** - Everybody has one...but if not ask a mate/your Father/grandfather...



**Bag Packing** - Always a good earner.

**Baked beans bath** - sounds messy but hilariously funny!!

**Beard Shaving** - Grab a few hairy marys and shave them. Not just for fun - get people to sponsor them to go through with it. You can shave heads, beards, backs or legs... the possibilities are great.

**Bingo** - Make your own bingo cards and invite your mates around for a few games. Charge them a Euro a ticket. Prizes should be something small like sweets or promises of eternal friendship.

**Blind Date Evening** - Get some single folks in the same room and charge an audience to watch you give Cilla a run for her money. Hopefully you'll raise a lorra lorra money chucks!

**Book Sale** - Time to clear out those shelves and raise money at the same time!

**Breakfast Event** - Home cooked muffins or breakfast rolls? Or both??

**Bring and Buy Sale** - We bet you've got loads of junk in your attics and under your bed. Why not raise some money by organising a Bring and Buy sale.

**Bungee Jumping** - Get your friends to sponsor you to jump off a bridge. Not for the faint hearted but what an adrenaline rush!

**Busking** - Note: a certain amount of talent is necessary if you want to earn more than a couple of bottle-tops and some evil looks.

**Cake sale** - Let the Delia or Jamie Oliver in you loose. Get baking and sell your cakes on to your mates, work colleagues or random strangers.

**Car boot sale** - All you need is a car (preferably with a boot), some junk and some people to buy it from you.

**Car cleaning** - Grab some willing friends and get knocking on your neighbour's doors. Tell them why you are offering to wash their car and chances are, they'll gladly stump up a bit of cash.

**Casual day at work** - get the bosses agreement and get everyone to pay a Euro or two to go casual for the day.

**Chocolate Ban** Get sponsored for every three days you can go without chocolate - or for every day without, if you're a serious chocoholic!

**Christmas Day Swim** - A great way to rid yourself of the hangover and work up an appetite! Get your family to sponsor you.

**Coffee mornings** - Bake some cakes, bring out the Nescafe and they will come. Remember to charge them for the privilege.

**Concert** - Get some talented friends to perform in front of those less talented. Or, vice versa for a laugh. Charge an admission fee and organise a collection/raffle during the matinee.

**Dance marathon** - Get people to sponsor you for every five minutes of boogying you manage - or for every song you shimmy to.



**Darts Tournament** - let the competitive streak out and get a tournament going amongst your friends/colleagues.

**Dinner Dance / Party** - Can be a lot of organising involved but could be a great fundraiser too!

**Disco** - Charge an entry fee and then dance the night away...

**Do door-to-door collections** - an oldie but a goodie...

**Dry Cornflakes/Cream Cracker eating contest** - Charge a small fee to enter and move back to avoid the spraying of crumbs.

**Egg & Spoon Race** - Think back to your school sport's days. All you need is some spoons, some eggs, some willing volunteers and it a bit of space in which to race. Charge participants to enter, with the winner of the race being awarded a small prize. Can enough be done on your work break!

**Egg Painting** - Something to have at your craft fair or fete. Set up an egg painting stool, provide the eggs and the paint and charge people to get creative.

**Face Painting** - Let the artist out and get creative! Models must be sober!

**Fancy dress ball / competition** - Always good fun..

**Fashion show** - Depending on how ambitious you are, this could raise a significant amount towards your target. Either grab a couple of mates and stage a show in your house. They could model clothes that you no longer want or need, which could then be auctioned off at the end of the day. Alternatively, let local clothes shops know about your fundraiser and ask them to donate clothes for the show. This is also great publicity for them. Get hold of a hall and advertise the event well in advance - give out flyers in your town centre and post them through letter boxes.

**Fill Smartie tubes with coins** - Pass smartie tubes out to your friends and family and ask them to fill them with spare change - preferably €1 coins! Then collect them back in - you'll be amazed at how much you will raise this way and there is very little effort involved. Also, you could empty the smarties from their tubes into a jar and run a 'Guess the number' contest.

**Five-a-Side** - Organise a raffle at half time and get prizes donated by local businesses. Alternatively, organise a match pitting your mates against their dads and older relatives. Ask each player to pay a fee to play and buy a small cup for the winning team.

**Garden party** - Whip up some cucumber sandwiches, dust off the picnic tables and crack open some Pimms. Charge a small entrance fee and organise a collection during the event. You might have to hold off for the good weather for this one though!



**Give up a vice** - Whether it be smoking, biting your toenails or your daily choccie bar - get sponsored to give it up for a set period - or ask people to sponsor you per day. Then you could rake in wads of cash!

**Go-Karting** - Organise a group of mates to head to the local Go Kart track. Inform the staff of your fundraising efforts and hope that they waive the admission fee - best to go off-peak times if you want to give this a try. Ask each person to pay a fee to enter a series of races. Award the winners a small prize each.

**Golf Day** - invite local firms/family/friends/colleagues to organise teams.

**Guess the Weight** - Find something suitably heavy - anything from a jar full of sweets to your Grandma - and ask friends and family to guess it's weight. Charge folk €0.50 to enter and buy a small prize for the winner.

**Head and beard shaving** - Less impressive if you already have a crew cut, but for those of you with long flowing locks this could earn you shed loads of cash. Or if you aren't feeling brave, get sponsored to shave the head of a hairy (willing) mate.

**Indoor Games Night** - board games, skittles, cards.

**Inter-departmental quiz** in your workplace

**International Evenings** - Hold themed evening events to let people know more about the countries you intend to/want to visit. Cook themed meals, have themed table decorations and wear appropriate clothing. Once everyone is digging into your delicious food, take the opportunity to tell them all about your plans... then get the donations bucket out.

**Jazz Night** - A good idea if you're a jazz singer. Perhaps a better one if you're not. Raise money and have a giggle at the same time by belting out some classic jazz tunes like 'Summertime'. Pass around the donations bucket to your spellbound audience and watch the money roll in.

**Jelly Eating Challenge** - potentially messy but oh sooo funny!

**Jewellery Making/Selling** - Buy beads and wire in bulk and get creative. Should be particularly profitable around Christmas time.

**Jigsaw Marathon** - Get some willing people around and ask them to donate a small amount to be part of the jigsaw marathon. Each person has a jigsaw and is timed to see how long it takes to complete. Once all are completed, the jigsaws are passed onto the next team and so this continues until all jigsaws have been completed. The winner is awarded a small prize.



**Joke-a-thon** - Go up to people on the street and asking them to pay you fifty cents if you can make them laugh. Best to be armed with a ready supply of hilarious jokes for this one.

**Karaoke Evening** - Rent a karaoke machine and hold an event in your local pub or kitchen. Sell tickets, or make it a competition and charge people to enter. Get a local company to donate a prize.

**Kiss-a-thon** - Sponsored snogging? Sounds like fun. Whether you go for quantity or duration is up to you...

**Knobbly knee contest** - Works especially well at the seaside in summer. Charge a Euro for people to enter the competition, and get a local company to donate a 'quality' prize. You get the fun of being the judge.

**Lawn mowing** - Borrow a lawn-mower and drop leaflets through doors, charging a couple of Euro for your services. Make sure the leaflet explains what the money is for, and people will be more inclined to pay.

**Leg Waxing** - painful but funny to watch grown men cry!

**Line-dancing** - Hold a line-dancing party. Send out invites; charge a fiver for tickets. Get in the spirit with costumes and decorations.

**Longest chain of paper clips, line of coins, etc** - Get sponsored per metre - you could even get a bunch of friends together and try to break the record. Alternatively, start a line of coins in your local park or college grounds. Publicise what you're raising money for and get passers-by to add their loose change to the line. Try to make it reach from one side of the park to the other.

**Luncheon** - Invite everyone in your workplace, school or street to a grand lunch (for a small fee, obviously). Make posh sarnies and nibbles. This could work especially well in an office, where people will appreciate an unusual break in the middle of the day.

**Leap Frog** - Get sponsored per leap, or per quarter-hour. More fun if you're leaping over strangers, in the local park or on the beach. Tell them what you're doing; they'll either laugh and agree or walk very quickly in the opposite direction. Take photos to prove you did it!

**Limbo Competition** - This could work well down the pub. Charge a Euro for entry to the competition, and get the bar to donate a few free drinks for the winner.

**Litter Picking** - People will be very willing to pay you if you're cleaning up a local park, beach or kids' playground. This is a way to help your local community while raising money for yourself, so everyone's a winner.



**Marathon table tennis, aerobics, line dancing or badminton** - Hire a local hall, or see if you can get one free for a good cause. Hold a marathon table tennis, aerobics, line dancing or badminton session (in shift teams). Get relevant companies to sponsor you in exchange for publicity in the hall (local gyms, sports shops etc). Get sponsorship from friends and family too

**Midsummer masked ball** - This will take a lot of organisation, but could be a very special - and lucrative - event. Go all-out to make it as posh as possible.

**Murder Mystery Night** - This could be great, especially if you're a member of an amateur dramatics group, or a drama group at school or college, who'll help you out.

**Musical Evening** - Get some talented friends together and hold a concert. If you do this in a pub or bar, it will be more low-key than in a hall or theatre, and there will be things for the audience to do during gaps between performances -

**Magic Show** - If you're the next Keith Barry, put together a magic show and get paid to perform at parties.

**New Year's Eve dance/party** - This could be as big or as small as you like - in your front room, upstairs in a pub, or in a mammoth marquee...

**Nearly New Sale** - This is a posher version of a jumble sale. Be selective - only sell nice stuff that's in good nick - and you can charge a fiver for items that would cost 50c in a jumble sale.

**Name the Baby/Teddy** - No, we're not suggesting you have a baby and charge people for the privilege of naming it. A photo of a friend's baby will do. Make a list of 100 names, charge people a Euro to choose a name, make a hundred quid and give €25 for the correct guess.

**Nature Trails** - Know a bit about the wildlife in your area? Charge people for guided nature walks.

**Night In** - Stay in on Saturday night with your friends and donate the money you save.

**Obstacle Course** - Set up a hard-core obstacle course and charge people to race.

**Office Collection Day** - Stick a pot on your desk with notices telling people what you're raising money for. Loudly remind your colleagues that it's for a good cause.

**Odd Job Days** - Lawn-mowing, DIY, carrying shopping, walking dogs... offer your services in the neighbourhood - no job too small. Dress in a superhero costume to get noticed.

**Outgrown Clothes Sale** - This is good if you know lots of families with kids. They bring clothes that their sprogs have grown out of, and buy clothes that others have brought.



**Pancake day party** - Everyone loves pancakes, right? Hold a Shrove Tuesday party for your family / friends /colleagues (charge them a fiver each). Serve unlimited pancakes and hold a pancake-tossing competition.

**Parties** - Know some busy parents? Organise their kids' birthday parties for them in exchange for cash. Jelly and icecream here we come.

**Penalty shoot-out competition** - People pay to enter; you get your hands on a signed football or some sports goodies for the winner.

**Pet show** - Get a pet shop to donate prizes in exchange for publicity. Why not make it an alternative pet-show, with prizes for the waggiest dog, pet lookalikes etc?

**Pram push** - Dress up, push your mate in a pram through the streets of your town, shake a bucket and be prepared to tell a lot of curious bystanders why they should give you money.

**Parachute** - go airborne and get sponsored to jump out a plane!

**Photo Competition** - Charge people to enter. Get a camera-shop to donate a prize and judge the comp - good publicity for them.

**Pub Games** - Skittles, darts, pool, cards... Charge people to enter; the landlord/lady will appreciate the custom, and might agree to donate free drinks for the winner. You could even make it a weekly league.

**Pantomime** - Lure wannabe-luvvies with promises of fame and adulation; put on a fun panto and charge for tickets. Serve mulled wine and mince pies for extra money.

**Pool Competition** - People put money in a pot to enter; the winner takes half of what's in the pot, you take the other half!

**Picnics** - Sell tickets in advance; with a little imagination you can make great, fun picnic food from cheap ingredients.

**Plastic duck race** - Find a company near you that hires out plastic ducks. People sponsor a duck, and they're released at a set point to float down a river. The sponsor of the winning duck gets a prize.

**Pillow Fight** - when was the last time you had one?

**Pizza party** - Everybody loves Pizza. Buy a load of pizza's and charge double for slices...

**Poetry Competition** - Doesn't have to be a boring as it sounds. Get your friends/colleagues to write limericks...

**Pram Race** - babies not included!

**Quizzes** - Quizzes are very popular and hence a good way to make money.

**Quiff competition** - Warning: only try this if you want to bring large numbers of Elvis (or Jedward!) fans out of the woodwork.

**Races** - Be imaginative - think sack-races, baby races, electric wheelchair races, stiletto races... charge people for entry and get a local company to donate



a prize.

**Raffles** - Get friends and local companies to donate prizes. Go for cool, unusual prizes like a day in a spa, a go-karting session or a takeaway pizza..

**Read-a-thon** - Get sponsored to read books - this works best if you're someone who never normally reads.

**Rugby Match** - Charge spectators for tickets. For extra crowd-pulling power, play in drag...

**Rounders Tournaments** - Charge teams to enter, and award a sport-related prize - or a slap-up post-match picnic to the winning team.

**Rowing** - Get sponsored to row on a rowing machine; aim to row the equivalent of crossing the channel.

**Radio Controlled Car Race** - Do it in the office at lunch time for more fun/money!

**Role Reversal Day** - so, who wants to do the ironing, cooking, hedge-cutting, remote control today??

**Scoff-a-hotdog competition** - Who can eat two in the shortest time? Who can eat the most in two minutes? Charge people to enter, with a free meal (donated by a fast-food joint?) for the winner. You'll be surprised how many people enter a comp like this just for the 'glory'.

**Shakespeare marathon** - Get sponsored to over-act your way through the complete works... in a public place. Tights obligatory.

**Silly games afternoon** - Egg and spoon, silly races, wet sponge throwing... use your imagination.

**Simpson's Quiz** - Some people are encyclopaedias on the show. Test their knowledge with a Simpson's quiz.

**Strawberry and cream tea party** - Pick-your-own works out cheapest. Hold the party in your garden on a sunny day and charge for tickets.

**Sponsored Silence** - Could you talk for Ireland? Reckon your family and friends would pay good money to shut you up for a day? A sponsored silence is really easy to organise, and can make you a fair bit of moulah.

### **Sports Day**

Organise a sports day at your workplace, local pub or uni. You'll be surprised how many grown-ups jump at the chance to don a PE kit and go back to their youth.

**Squash Tournament** - Charge people to enter. Get a sports centre to donate five free sessions on the squash court for the winner.

**Swear Box** - Get your mates or colleagues to put 50c in the box if they swear.

**Swim-a-thon** - Get sponsored per length. If you're a fit swimmer, try to swim the equivalent of crossing the Channel (or half-way across).

**Scavenger Hunt** - People pay to enter. They each receive a list of items they need to scavenge (a beer-mat, a yellow flower, an item of underwear that's not their own...) Give a prize to the person who brings all the items to you first.

**Slave auction** - Get a few of your mates together and hold a slave auction.



People bid to have a young man/lady accompany them for the day. The 'slaves' should dress to impress!

**Scrabble Tournaments** - Pay to play or sponsor points.

**Shoe Shining** - Everyone could do with a shine!

**Tea party** - Tea is the new fashionable drink of choice, or so they say. Charge your friends a couple of Euro to attend, and go all-out with the fairy-cakes and cucumber sandwiches. Very civilised.

**Theme days/evenings** - There are loads of possibilities. Why not have an Indian night (curry, Bollywood movies...). Or you could hold a '70s night or a Bond evening. Charge people to take part.

**Throwing wet sponges at a person in stocks** - Great at a summer fair!

**Top of the Pops show** - Put on a fake TOTP, with talented types impersonating their fave band or artist.

**Treasure hunt** - People pay you for the first clue. You lay a trail of clues, with a top prize at the end. Car treasure-hunts can work really well.

**Tuck shop** - Buy cheap multi-packs of chocolate bars and crisps and sell them at extortionately inflated prices. This works well at offices and factories. Sell home-made cakes and cookies too if you've got time to bake them.

**Tennis Tournament** - Hold your own mini-Wimbledon. People pay to enter, and the winner gets a prize donated by a local business. Sell champagne and strawberries-and-cream to the spectators.

**Themed Dinner Party** - A Mexican, Indian or Moroccan meal could go down really well. Charge people to attend - try your parents' friends.

**Tug-of-War** - Teams pay to enter, with the hope of winning prizes. Teachers vs students, boys vs girls, or one town or village vs another could be fun.

**Twister-a-thon** - Get sponsored to play an all-day game of Twister with your mates. People will donate more if you're doing it in a public place - your embarrassment is always worth a few Euro's.

**Tombola** - This would work best at a fete or special event. You don't need a fancy-turny-handle-thing - just put the tickets in a box and shake well. Get local businesses and family friends to donate prizes.

**Three Legged Race** - They were always good fun at school so why not get people to 'tie the knot' and skip along for charity.

**Unwanted Gift Sale** - Get your friends and family to donate their unwanted Christmas gifts in early January. Flog them shamelessly.

**Unicycle Racing** - Helps if your friends can ride unicycles.

**Used Stamps** - Get your family, friends and neighbours to donate their used stamps, and sell them to collectors.



**Variety show** - Does your Dad play the didge? Can your dog dance the tango? Put on a variety show with a difference!

**Volleyball Tournament** - This could work well on the beach in summer-time. Promote it through a loud-speaker, and get teams to pay to enter. Get local businesses to donate prizes for the winners: try the nearest ice-cream van.

**Vegetable eating** - Does your family despair of your unbalanced diet? Get them to sponsor you to eat your greens.

**Video-a-thon** - Rent a bunch of classic movies and play them back-to-back for 24 hours. Print schedules and hand them out to your friends and acquaintances, who'll hopefully turn up and pay to watch their favourites. Offer a discount for those who last the whole 24 hours. Don't skimp on the popcorn.

**Valentines Day Event** - Soft music, mirror-balls, largely heart-based decor... you get the idea. Sell tickets to the love-sick and desperate. Alternatively, hold an anti-Valentine party.

**Vegetarian Evening** - Cook all your favourite veggie recipes and pay people to come eat them. Don't just target veggies - meat-eaters will come too, out of interest.

**Valet Services** - Clean out your parents, neighbour's, friends car and earn a few bob.

**White Elephant stall** - Sell anything and everything you can get your hands on at a fete, jumble sale or car boot sale. You'll be amazed at what people will buy...

**Who's that baby** - Get old baby-photos of your mates or - much better - your bosses or teachers. Stick them up around your school or office and get people to pay to guess who they are. Needless to say, you'll need a quality prize for the winner.

**Window Cleaning** - Spend a weekend cleaning windows for your neighbours or local shops. Ask for donations rather than charging a set fee and you may get more money.

**Wine Tasting** - Hold a wine-tasting evening. Get a supermarket or off-license to donate a few bottles for the tasting, and sell bottles for them at the end (for a small profit).

**Welly Throwing** - All you need is a welly and space to throw it! Charge people to enter.

**Wheelbarrow Races** - Was always fun when we were children. Why not see how far your friends are able to go now!

**Where will the cow poo?** One of the stranger ones. Ask a local farmer if you can mark out his field into squares. Sell squares to your friends/passers-by and the winner is the one who has the square that the cow pooped in!

**Who wants to be a millionaire** - A great way to hold a quiz.

**World record** - Can you eat 9 Ferrero Rocher in a minute! Try it and get your friends to pay to watch!



**X-Files day** - Use your imagination - the ideas are out there! Hold an X-Files quiz and show episodes of the show all day.

**Xmas fair/panto/party** - 'Tis the season to make money! Get out the mistletoe for a big Christmas party, or sell home-made gifts at a Christmas fair.

**Xylophone Marathon** - Ok, so maybe we're having trouble thinking of fund-raising ideas beginning with X!!

**Yoga Marathon** - Get sponsored to do yoga for a day. You'll be so bendy by the end of it that you can charge people to watch you tie yourself in knots. Bonus.

**Yodelling Competition** - Will people pay money to listen to your tone-deaf mates yodelling? Only one way to find out...

**Yo-Yo competition** - Get people to pay to enter; hand out small prizes for duration and tricks.

**Zany Dress Day** - People at your office or school pay a Euro or two for the chance to come dressed as celeb's, as animals, in their team's strip, or all in pink...