



FUNdraising Ideas

House Party This is a sure-fire way to raise money. Collect donations and entertain at the same time. Create a theme (like a costume party) and have fun!

Corporate Matching Gift Ask your company to match the amount of pledges you receive from your fellow coworkers.

Your friend's matching gift Ask a friend to see if they can investigate getting their company to match pledges.

Corporate Sponsorship Identify one of several major companies in your area and contact them directly. They may be willing to sponsor you completely.

Garage Sale Do you really need all that extra stuff taking up space in your garage, attic and/or basement? Gather it up and ask your friends to do the same. Then pick a Saturday or Sunday, put the stuff in the front yard and sell! All your money raised can go toward your fundraising goal!

Bake Sale Become Julia Child or Mrs. Fields and host a bake sale with you and your friends. You can even have it in conjunction with your garage sale

The "Extra Change in My Pocket" Box Create these little boxes for your friends and family and have them place it on their dresser or desk. At the end of the day they can drop that spare change in the box.

Office Fundraising Challenge Speak with everyone in your office and get them to challenge each other to raise the highest amount. Give the winner a prize like movie passes or a gift certificate to lunch or dinner

Return Address Labels Print return address labels for your outgoing mail. Print something like, "I'm riding in the 2008 Bike MS event, will you sponsor me?" You may want to include a pledge form and a self-addressed envelope to make it really easy for them to donate.

Internet Chat Rooms Post a message on an Internet chat room. You will be amazed at how many people you don't even know who will be willing to help you.

Personal Participant Center One of the great features of our website is the personal participant center where you can upload a photo of yourself or you and your team, write a little bit about your mission and reason for walking, and create a fundraising goal. From this site you can send an email to everyone on your contact list and invite them to visit the website. You can also keep track of donations that you receive by entering them into your account.

Ask your local restaurants to place a money jar at the front of the restaurant Check with the restaurant manager. They may be willing to place the jar in a high-traffic area so lots of patrons can see it.

Fundraising dinner at your local favorite restaurant Ask your favorite local restaurant to host a fundraising dinner for you. They supply the food and you supply the pledge forms!

Happy Hour Party Invite all your friends (and their friends) and get them to sign your past MS Bike Tour T-shirt. Charge \$10 per signature. You'll even end up with a great shirt to wear on event day.

Movie ticket donation Ask your local movie house to donate several movie tickets. Sell them and put the money toward your pledges.

Have a local theater donate tickets to a performance Ask a local theater to donate a pair of tickets to one of their plays or musicals and auction them off.

Birthday Gift Pledge It will be a lot easier for your friends and family to write you a birthday check instead of spending hours trying to shop for you! And then you can donate the amount to your pledge total.

Delegate Give 10 of your friends 10 pledge forms each and ask them to help raise money for you.

Creative friends Find a local artist or ask a creative friend if they would donate a piece of art or jewelry that you could auction off. Or see if they would be willing to create mass quantities that you could sell and keep a portion of the proceeds for your pledge total.

Signing your Correspondence Add a short sentence at the bottom of your email signature (if applicable) saying that you're walking in the 2008 Bike MS event and ask for a pledge. Include an email link to your Bike MS event personal or team page.

Business Cards Print up some inexpensive business cards (you can even do it on your own computer). Have all the pertinent information on the card including your name, the name of the MS event and your address. Hand these out to everyone you meet!

Travel Agency Do you always make your travel plans through the same agency? Ask them to donate a travel voucher. You can auction it off at one of your parties.

Doctor/Therapist/Veterinarian/Insurance Agent Ask him/her to write a check for you instead of the other way around!

Dentist Hopefully you won't have to pull teeth to get him/her to help you out a little! Chiropractor They've cracked your back. Now ask them to crack open their checkbook and make a pledge.

Yoga Instructor You've bent over backward for them, now it's their turn to do the same for you!

Radio Station Call your favorite radio station and ask them to make an announcement on the air. They may even interview you. Pledges can be sent directly to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society office.

Spinning Class Have a stack of pledge forms with you and ask your spinning instructor to make an announcement in class.

Hair Salon Ask your barber or hairdresser to donate \$2 of every haircut they complete over one weekend.

Neighbor Write to all your neighbors on your block or in your building. Attach a letter stating what you're doing and ask them to make a donation. Or just stick a flier in their mailboxes explaining why you're raising money.

Free Rent Ask your landlord to donate one-month's rent to the cause!

Errand boy/girl Offer to be your friends' and/or coworkers' personal assistant for a day (or maybe for just a few hours) in exchange for a large donation. Maybe \$250 or more!

Meet the Press Does your company distribute a newsletter? Does your company have interoffice email? Take advantage of these...it's a perfect way to get the word out!

Babysitting Offer up your services and let your friends have a nice, quiet night out of the house!

Pet sit Are your neighbors going away and they don't want to leave their pet(s) at the kennel? Again, offer up your services and charge them what they would have paid at the kennel and donate it to your pledge total!

House sit Are your friends going out of town for awhile? Maybe they need a warm body to stay at their place while they are away.

Talented Friends Do you have a little piano bar in your neighborhood and a talented piano-playing friend? Ask the owner to let you bring some friends in one night for a cocktail and piano night. Charge anyone who attends and let them know that it's a fundraising event for the MS Walk.

ebay.com Gather up goods from you and your friends and auction it off on ebay.

Company Vacation Days Ask your boss or human resources director if they can swap one of your vacation days for a day's pay.

In memory of... If you're riding in memory of someone, include a picture of you with your loved one in your pledge letter, on posters, etc.

Pledges for each mile you ride Ask people to pledge an amount for each mile of the MS Bike Tour. For example, ride a hundred miles at \$3 per mile and you will receive \$300.

Game Night Get out those board games and start playing! Break into teams and let the fun begin.

Host a poker game Call your card-playing friends and invite them over for poker night!

Bowling Nights Plan a fun night of bowling at your local lanes. Ask the owner to waive the cost of bowling and you can collect that money and turn it into pledges.

Company Grants Find out if your company offers grants to employees who volunteer their time for charitable causes. If so, you can volunteer your time at the National Multiple Sclerosis Society office and get paid grant money (pledges!) for the work. You may need a letter from us stating that you'll be volunteering in the office and we'd be happy to make that happen.

Church Bulletin Place an advertisement in your church bulletin/newsletter letting the congregation know what you're up to! Or better yet, invite them to join you at the MS Bile Tour!

Ride along Ask a potential donor to join you on a ride. He or she may be more willing to donate once they fully understand what you are committed to doing.

Remind Them If you didn't receive an answer the first time you asked, ask again! Your potential donor may need a little coaxing.

Computer Screen Savers Create a Bike MS Screen Saver and send it to everyone in your company! Or simply create a text screen saver on your own computer that others will see when you're away from your desk.

Mechanics You've given them lots of money to work on your car. Now it's time for them to give a little back to you!

Rock on! If you know any musicians, ask them to perform a benefit concert. Tell people that their admission ticket is a check made out to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Tell your story The more you talk about your upcoming adventure, the more people will share in that excitement and want to pledge you.

Do you have a favorite magazine? Call the editor and ask them to sponsor you for the Bike MS event. If you've subscribed to a specific magazine or local newspaper for a long time, they may be willing to give something back to you.

Alumni Organizations Call your own college or university and ask them to place an ad in the alumni newsletter asking for donations.

Make your Own Contribution Lead the way by making your pledge first.

Clubs and Organizations Send a solicitation letter to your local Knights of Columbus, Lions Club, Rotary Club, Kiwanis, etc. They support individuals in their communities.

Contact your Local Paper and Get an Article Make sure that you put in information about how people can contribute. And have a photo

Write to your local politicians You supported them, don't you think they should support you?

Send a letter or email to everyone you know asking for support!

Start now The earlier you begin fundraising, the better off you'll be. You'll be able to go way beyond your pledge minimum and then you can focus on your training.

Ask as many times as you can Then ask again!