

GREAT IDEAS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

United Way of Goodhue,
Wabasha & Pierce Counties



Appreciation Carnation

Sell carnations as a sign of appreciation from one employee to another. For an added twist, send the flowers anonymously. Recipients can pay to find out who sent the carnations to them.

Balloon Pop

Employees or vendors can donate prizes for this event – a variation of a traditional raffle. Before filling a balloon with helium, put a note inside with the name of a prize or a United Way Quick Fact, as a consolation prize. Employees buy a balloon and pop it to find out what prize they've won.

Bake Sale/Cookie Exchange

Ask employees to bake their favorite cookies or other goodies. Sell plates of the treats to employees. Charge an additional fee for the recipe.

Basket Auction

Ask each department in your organization to sponsor, create and fill a theme basket (spa, chocolate, golf, cooking, family night). Then auction off the baskets.

Candy Grams

Sell Candy with labels attached. Employees can buy and have them delivered to co-workers.

- 100,000 Dollar Bar – I think your GRAND
- Snickers Bar – You make me SNICKER – Thanks for making work fun!
- Life Savers Roll – You are a life saver – thanks for your help
- PayDay Bar – I wish I could give you a raise – hope this will suffice
- Smarties – You're such a SMARTIE – thanks for your help
- Whoppers- You are a Whopper of a friend

Car Wash

Charge employees to have their car washed by management. Take and sell photos.

Coin Wars

Set up a large empty water bottle for each department in a central location. Employees drop their spare change into the bottle. Coins are positive while paper money is negative. The group with the highest point total wins. All cash collected is donated to United Way.

Eating Contest

Who can eat the most in a given amount of time (hotdogs, pies, pickles, crackers)

Hat Contest

Have entrants purchase a brown grocery bag then set up a table full of add ons(ribbon, feathers, flowers, candy etc) that can be used to decorate the hat. Follow up with a fashion show throughout the office with co-workers buying a chance to vote on the winner. Winner gets a prize.

Hat Wars

Want to see your manager or co-workers in a crazy looking hat? Pay a fee to have someone wear a hat of your choice for an hour. Person wearing hat must keep it on for one hour, even through appointments, or they have to pay \$1 to take it off. Person receiving the hat can get revenge if they want to by paying a fee for their buyer to wear one of the hats later. You can buy more than one hour if you choose. Be creative with hats and have fun!

Healthy Hotdish Contest

Employees bring their favorite healthy hotdish. Organize a panel of “expert” judges to decide on the best recipe. Charge employees to sample and eat lunch and even have a people’s choice vote.

Latte Stand

For more distinguished coffee drinkers, offer a latte stand during a morning meeting. Remind them how much a cup of gourmet coffee or tea costs. Ask if they can donate that amount (or more) each week to United Way.

Lose Your Locks

Have an employee volunteer to cut their hair or shave their head if goals are met.

Midnight Breakfast

If your organization has a third shift, charge employees for a midnight breakfast served by executives and other day employees.

Office Miniature Golf

Provide Putters and build a nine-hole course featuring staplers, slinkies, office chairs, trash cans and other “creative “obstacles. Participants play in teams of two with a registration fee. Winning team earns a prize. Run for a week tournament style.

Radio Controlled Car Race

Set up a pre-determined course. Use timers to see who can run the course in the shortest time. Charge per attempt. Offer a prize for the shortest time to navigate the course.

Rootbeer Float Sale

This is a welcome activity for hot summer afternoons in July and August.

Scavenger Hunt

Employees pay an entry fee to hunt for hidden objects around the office or neighborhood. Give them a time limit. Award the winning team a prize. Add a theme for clues and items.

Scooter Races

Set up a speedway in your parking lot. Have each department sponsor a scooter driver. Have pit teams, the national anthem and maybe a doctor on hand. Sell raffle tickets to spectators to place their winning "bet" by placing their ticket into a certain driver's bucket. When the race is over a ticket is drawn from that driver's bucket for a prize. There are other things that could be incorporated to add dollars, hotdogs or walking tacos for spectators.

Staff Services Auction

Auction off staff services (babysitting, oil change, use of a cabin, baking services, knotting services etc) add prime time parking spots. Silent auction in lunchroom or try to use internal internet for an online auction.

Survivor Game

Each participant is sponsored by a team for \$10. Team must help entrant remain on the island by fulfilling a requirement each day. (Bring in silent auction item, bring in bake sale item, wear a certain color, wear an ugly hat etc) Last remaining entrant and team win a pizza lunch.

Ugliest Apparel Contest

Contestants pay to enter the ugliest tie, earrings, socks or Christmas Sweater contest. Take photos of the participants and have employees vote on the "ugliest" in each category by contributing a dollar

Viking/Packer Day

Sell stickers that allow employees to wear their teamwear to work during football season. Host a tailgate party during lunch and have fans bring their favorite tailgating dish. Good for the Vikes vs the Pack week

Where in the Office Is ? (Name of CEO or a person in upper management) BIG HIT!!

Create a life sized cardboard person and use a cut out picture of your CEO's face to put on the cardboard person. Employees can send this to anyone's office with a note. \$1 buys you the opportunity to send it. \$2 will allow it to be removed.

Whipped Cream Sponge or Pie in the Face

Host whipped cream throwing contest. Use sponges covered or pie tins filled with whipped cream and try to hit a target. Get management to be the targets and have employees pay to play.

Who Is It?

Invite employees to try their luck matching baby pictures, high school pictures. Pet pictures or celebrity photos to executives. Contestants pay a fee to participate. Winner gets a fun prize.

YEAR ROUND ACTIVITIES

January The 19th is National Popcorn Day. Why not turn your breakroom or conference room into a movie theater, show old movies or television shows, pop some popcorn and charge admission. Or sell fresh popped popcorn by the bag.

February The obvious is Valentine's day. Help your co-workers with their shopping by selling chocolates or flowers with profits going to United Way.

March The 23rd is National Chip and Dip Day. Celebrate by inviting co-workers to make their own favorite dip or salsa recipe. Charge a fee to sample the entries and \$1 each for copies of the recipes.

April Try an Easter Egg Raffle. Fill plastic Easter eggs with raffle numbers. People buy eggs or chances for springtime prizes such as potted flowers .

May The 15th is National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day. Sponsor a baking contest. Votes are cast for the best chocolate chip cookie recipe with change in jars. The cookie that earns the most money wins – all donations go to United Way.

June I scream -you scream-we all scream for ice cream! An Ice Cream Social is a great event for National Dairy Month. Set up an ice cream bar with a variety of toppings. Have management scooping and charge by the scoop!

July The 23rd is National Hot Dog Day. Host a cook out and play some hot dog trivia.

August A Corn Roast is perfect for this month. Grill sweet corn and charge by the ear. Be sure to have salt and plenty of Minnesota or Wisconsin butter on hand.

September Have management bring in an early school photo and let employees pay to guess the identity of that freckle faced first grader!

October Purchase a large pumpkin and charge for employees to guess the weight. Have a pumpkin carving contest and let people vote by placing money in a jar in front of their favorite pumpkin. Auction off the decorated pumpkins to raise even more money.

November Turkey Bowling! Get a frozen turkey and set up 2 liter bottles filled with water for the bowling pins.

December Hold a toy drive for local kids. Bring in wrapped gifts for kids with a tag indicating gender and age appropriateness. Call United Way to pick up and distribute.