

Fifty-five Fun FUNdraising Ideas

1. Host a **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!
2. **Corporate Matching Gift** Ask your company to match the amount of pledges you receive from your fellow coworkers. OR ask a friend to see if they can investigate getting their company to match pledges.
3. **Corporate Sponsorship** Identify one of several major companies in your area and contact them directly. They may be willing to sponsor your team.
4. **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!
5. **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.
6. **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.
7. **Start your own extra change box** Keep a jar near your door and every day put all your extra coins in it...it adds up! Or put it on your desk at work – others will join you.
8. **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.
9. **Ask your local wait staff or bartenders to donate a portion of one day’s tips to your cause.** You can create a sign for the bartender to place on the bar stating “All tips collected tonight will go directly to the National MS Society and Team _____ who’s walking to raise money for those people living with multiple sclerosis.” If patrons see the sign, they may be willing to dig a little deeper into their pockets!
10. **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.

11. **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!
12. **Happy Hour Party** Invite all your friends (and their friends) and get them to sign your past MS Walk T-shirt. Charge \$10 per signature. You'll even end up with a great shirt to wear on event day.
13. **Theme Party/Dinner** Hold a theme party for 10 or more of your friends. Have each guest donate \$50, spend no more than \$20 per person on food and you'll have \$300 or more in pledges by the end of the night.
14. **Host a movie party at your house** Pick up a new release at your local video store, make some popcorn, pick up some drinks and invite your friends and family over for the night. Make sure you have plenty of pledge forms out!
15. **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.
16. **Delegate** Give 10 of your friends 10 pledge forms each and ask them to help raise money for you.
17. **House Warming Party** Are you moving anytime soon? If so, ask your friends to make a pledge instead of purchasing a gift for your new place.
18. **Signing your Correspondence** Add a short sentence at the bottom of your email signature (if applicable) saying that you're walking in the 2005 MS Walk and ask for a pledge. Include an email link to your MS Walk personal or team page.
19. **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.
20. **Doctor/Therapist/Veterinarian/Insurance Agent** Ask him/her to write a check for you instead of the other way around! Or ask your **Dentist**. Hopefully you won't have to pull teeth to get him/her to help you out a little!
21. **Hair Salon** Ask your barber or hairdresser to donate \$2 of every haircut they complete over one weekend.
22. **Mow-a-Thon** Get your kids involved in this weekend activity. Check ahead of time with all your neighbors and ask them if you can mow their lawn for a donation.
23. **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.
24. **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!
25. **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!

26. **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.
27. **Karaoke Night** Who cares if you can't carry a tune? Spend a Friday night at a Karaoke Bar and sing for pledges!
28. **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 fund-raising event for the MS Walk.
29. **eBay.com** Gather up goods from you and your friends and auction it off on eBay.
30. **Sell Shoes** Ask the Chapter for paper sneakers that you can sell for \$1 and put that toward your pledge total. You can hang them on your cubicle or pin them to your T-shirt on Walk day to display those who sponsored you.
31. **In memory of...** If you're walking in memory of someone, include a picture of you with your loved one in your pledge letter, on posters, etc.
32. **Television Show Finale Party** It would be fun to gather a big group of friends together to tune in to watch a big season or series finale. Of course, charge them at the door and put the money toward your pledges.
33. **Game Night** Get out those board games and start playing! Break into teams and let the fun begin.
34. **Host a poker game** Call your card-playing friends and invite them over for poker night!
35. **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.
36. **Used book sale** Everyone has books that have been sitting on shelves, in the attic or in the basement collecting dust. Ask your friends, family and neighbors to donate books they no longer want and set up a weekend book sale in your front yard. Put up some signs so people will know where the money is going and once they know, hopefully they'll give you even more!
37. **Local stores** Ask a local store manager what the hot-selling item is these days and then ask if he or she would be willing to donate a percent of the sales from that particular item to you.
38. **Company Grants** Find out if your company offers grants to employees who volunteer their time for charitable causes.
39. **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 Walk!
40. **Is there a teacher in the house?** Get your students to help you fundraise. Kids are incredibly creative and cute too!

41. **Inspirational Bookmarks** Create them and sell them to your friends and family.
42. **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.
43. **Tell your story** The more you talk about your upcoming adventure, the more people will share in that excitement and want to pledge you.
44. **Wine and Cheese Party** Host a party at a local restaurant and ask the owner to donate the wine and cheese.
45. **Temporary Tattoos** Swap a temporary tattoo for a pledge.
46. **Fraternities and Sororities** Contact the National Chapter of your Fraternity or Sorority and ask them to make a donation. Or contact your **Alumni Organizations** Call your own college or university and ask them to place an ad in the alumni newsletter asking for donations.
47. **Ask for the Right Amount** Take a good look at who you're asking for donations and make sure you ask for the right amount. Don't ask for \$100 if you know someone could pledge \$1,000.
48. **Pizza Party** Check out your local Pizzeria Uno (especially since they started in Chicago), they have a great deal to help you fundraise.
49. **Raffle** Everyone that contributes is entered into a raffle to win a special item such as a homemade quilt or baseball tickets.
50. **Ask someone you don't know for money!**
51. **Send Reminders** Remind people to support you in your fund-raising efforts.
52. **Write to your local politicians** You supported them, don't you think they should support you?
53. **Send a letter or email to everyone you know asking for support!**
54. **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!

55. HAVE FUN!