

INDIVIDUAL FUNDRAISING GUIDE

Practical ways for students to take ownership and raise money for retreats, camps, conferences, and mission trips.

START WITH A GOAL. MAKE A PLAN. GET TO WORK.

Don't let the cost of an opportunity stop you from participating. Small amounts add up when you start early, work hard, save intentionally, and invite others to support what God is doing in your life.

WORK

Use your time and skills

SAVE

Put your own money toward it

ASK

Invite others to partner with you

1. Start With a Goal

Before you begin, know exactly what you are working toward. A clear goal makes fundraising feel manageable.

What am I raising money for?	_____
Total cost	\$ _____
Money already saved	\$ _____
Amount I need to raise	\$ _____
Fundraising deadline	_____

BREAK A BIG GOAL INTO SMALL WINS

Need \$500? 10 supporters x \$20 = \$200 + 5 jobs x \$40 = \$200 + sell unused items = \$100

2. Choose Your Fundraising Ideas

Pick a few ideas that fit your age, skills, schedule, and season. You do not need to do all of them.

RENT-A-STUDENT Ask trusted family, friends, neighbors, or church members to hire you for raking, mowing, shoveling, cleaning, organizing, moving boxes, or yard projects.	BABYSITTING Offer babysitting to families you already know and trust. Let them know what you are raising money for.
PET SITTING / DOG WALKING Care for pets, walk dogs, feed animals, or help while trusted families are traveling.	LAWN CARE Mow, trim, pull weeds, water plants, pick up sticks, or clean flower beds.
LEAF CLEANUP Rake and bag leaves for neighbors or family friends.	SNOW SHOVELING Shovel driveways, sidewalks, steps, and decks. Ask neighbors ahead of time.
CAR WASHING Wash the exterior, vacuum the interior, clean windows, and wipe down dashboards.	GARAGE / BASEMENT CLEANUP Sweep, organize, move boxes, sort belongings, and help clean storage spaces.
HOUSE CLEANING Vacuum, sweep, mop, dust, wash windows, or organize for trusted families.	SELL UNUSED ITEMS With a parent or guardian, sell clothes, games, sports gear, books, electronics, or other unused items.
GARAGE SALE Collect unused family items and host a sale. Tell customers what you are raising money for.	BAKE & SELL Take preorders for cookies, brownies, muffins, cinnamon rolls, bread, cupcakes, or other treats.

MAKE & SELL

Create bracelets, artwork, cards, woodworking, crocheted items, ornaments, decorations, or gifts.

TUTOR

Offer homework help in math, reading, writing, science, or study skills.

HOST A MEAL / DESSERT NIGHT

With your family, host a simple meal or dessert night and invite guests to donate toward your trip.

ASK FOR WORK - NOT JUST MONEY

Tell people your goal and ask whether they have a job around the house or yard you can do to earn money.

PICK UP EXTRA WORK HOURS

If you have a job, ask for an extra shift or weekend hours and set the money aside.

SEND SUPPORT LETTERS

Tell trusted family, friends, mentors, or coaches where you are going, why it matters, and how they can pray or support you.

TEACH A SKILL

Give beginner lessons in sports, music, art, baking, photography, technology, or another skill.

TECHNOLOGY HELP

Help trusted adults organize photos, set up devices, learn apps, clean up files, or understand phone features.

BIRTHDAY FUNDRAISER

Ask family and friends to contribute toward your trip instead of purchasing birthday gifts.

SERVE IN THE COMMUNITY

Complete a service project and ask people to sponsor your work-hours.

GIVE SOMETHING UP & SAVE

Temporarily cut back on snacks, fast food, entertainment, or other spending and put that money toward the trip.

3. Try the \$300 Challenge

One possible 10-day plan. Adjust it to fit your situation and your family's preferences.

DAY	ACTION	GOAL
1	Put \$20 of your own money toward the trip	\$20
2	Ask two family members or mentors to contribute \$20 each	\$40
3	Ask two grandparents or extended family members to contribute \$20 each	\$40
4	Ask three relatives to contribute \$10 each	\$30
5	Complete a job for someone	\$30
6	Complete another job	\$30
7	Ask neighbors if they have a small job you can complete	\$30+
8	Babysit, mow, shovel, clean, or do another service project	\$30
9	Sell something you no longer use	\$30
10	Repeat one of your most successful ideas	\$30+

4. Fundraising Tips

START EARLY Don't wait until the final week before payment is due.	TELL PEOPLE WHY Share why this opportunity matters to you, not just how much it costs.
BE WILLING TO WORK Taking ownership shows that the experience matters to you.	BE SPECIFIC Share your exact goal and ask whether there is a job you can do.
KEEP TRACK Write down what you earn and immediately set it aside.	SAY THANK YOU Thank anyone who hires you, buys something, prays, or gives.
INVOLVE YOUR PARENTS A parent or guardian should know about jobs, online sales, meetings with adults, and giving arrangements.	DON'T GIVE UP Small amounts add up. Keep working your plan.

5. Build Your Plan

My fundraising goal	\$_____
Idea #1	Goal: \$_____
Idea #2	Goal: \$_____
Idea #3	Goal: \$_____
Idea #4	Goal: \$_____
Idea #5	Goal: \$_____
Total I plan to raise	\$_____
Deadline	_____

START EARLY. MAKE A PLAN. WORK HARD. SAVE INTENTIONALLY. PRAY ABOUT IT.
Taking responsibility for raising money can become part of the experience itself.