



## GRANTS FOR TEACHERS

It is our experience that the best way to find sustainable outside funding for a program at Point Bonita YMCA is to find an organization or individual in your community with the resources and the passion to support experiential outdoor education. Below is a list intended to give you ideas for possible program-funding grants. Some of these grants may not be used to help fund your trip, but instead would help fund complementary curriculum and long-term environmental stewardship projects in your school and community.

[American Honda Foundation](#) Supports projects with a focus on math, science, the environment, and technology.  
\$20,000 - \$60,000

[Captain Planet Foundation](#) Makes awards that usually range between \$250 to \$2,500 for projects that promote understanding of environmental issues and focus on hands-on experiences for students.

[CREEC](#) California Regional Environmental Education Community has a list of grants and resources for teachers specifically for funding Environmental Education

[The National Education Association \(NEA\) Foundation](#) Goal is to fund and share successful strategies to educate and prepare students for bright and rewarding futures.

[Toshiba America Foundation](#) Funds project ideas and materials teachers need to innovate in their math and science classrooms.

[Philanthropic Ventures Foundation](#) Funds up to \$1,000 for field trips, to cover the costs of "transportation, admission fees and food" for K-5 schools from Alameda and San Mateo Counties.

## GRANT WRITING TIPS

Never written a grant before? We suggest that you contact the following free public resources to get you started.

[The Foundation Center](#): This website has multiple resources for grant seeking, including lists of foundations, newsletters, and instructions on how to prepare a proposal.

[Edutopia](#): Contains grants information and resources for teachers and schools.

[Chronicle of Philanthropy](#): An informative resource list for schools and nonprofit organizations looking for funding.

[CREEC Network](#): Funding and grant resources for teachers specifically for funding Environmental Education

## Point Bonita YMCA- Financial Assistance

Point Bonita YMCA is committed to reaching students in all the communities we serve. If you believe your school or group may qualify, please fill out and submit a [financial assistance application](#) form to Rochelle Tolbert or call 415-331-9622 x 686.

## **WORKING TOGETHER**

Fundraising can be a fun and creative group activity. When students work together to raise funds for an exciting goal, the process becomes a fulfilling endeavor. Many schools provide their students with the opportunity to raise their own tuition or funds for transportation to campus. Community investment in students and schools increases when local businesses, civic groups, and families have an opportunity to participate and engage in the fundraising process. If performed on a wide scale, fundraising can increase the community's investment in students and schools. Fundraising doesn't have to be torture. Often, the most challenging part is coming up with creative ideas that motivate the troops.

## **FUNDRAISING TIPS**

Before heading out on your fundraising ventures, here are a few things you should consider:

1. When tackling a fundraiser, it's often beneficial to have more than one idea to create an event that appeals to as many people as possible.
2. The fastest way to a successful fundraiser for your school is to involve kids, parents, and your community. Choose a fundraiser your students and parents understand and believe in.
3. If you get parents involved in your fundraising efforts, the odds are very good that they will be the primary sales people. Parent involvement can be higher than you think. You should consider what works well for them when you choose how to raise money. You might consider creating a second incentive program designed for the parents or even incentivizing the adult's results since they will be the driving force.
4. If your fundraiser is primarily student driven, make sure the fundraiser is of interest to them and that they benefit directly from it. If students engage in fundraising for some of their tuition, the experience can give them a sense of fulfillment.
5. Set your goals. Know how much money you need and when you need it. Use a goal chart to check your progress.
6. Make sure you keep the students & parents aware of the campaign well in advance of the actual school fundraising. Do not depend on them to remember or even think about the fundraiser. You need to keep reminding and encouraging them.
7. There are 3 main types of fundraising sources: Pledges & donations, Product fundraisers and Event fundraisers. Choose the type that works best for you.
8. Enlist volunteers. Ask for names of those who may have volunteered in past fundraisers. Let volunteers indicate their interests and assign them accordingly.
9. Publicize your campaign. Have a campaign kick-off to motivate key players. Encourage parents & students to spread the word to family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors.
10. Biggest tip of all... Keep the FUN in fundraising. When you keep it fun for everyone, you'll see a higher rate of participation from students, parents, teachers, and the community.

## FUNDRAISING IDEAS

**On-line Fundraising:** As PTOs, PTAs and other school organizations become more sophisticated, many develop their own websites that advertise their fundraisers and take donations. In constructing a fund-raising web site, be sure to be specific about your fundraiser. Another option is Crowdfunding or Crowdsourcing. For detailed guidance for schools on how to best use this platform of fundraising check out [Raise Money for Your School Using Crowdfunding](#) and [Crowdfunding Tips for Students and Schools](#).

**Reusable Bag Sale:** Reusable bags are a sustainable alternative to traditional fundraising merchandise. Students learn about the impact plastic bags have on the environment. The entire community learns about the benefits of using reusable bags. Reusable bag companies have established fundraising programs.

### A-thon

- **Trash-A-Thon:** Students collect pledges of \$1 per bag of trash they pick up during a supervised community, school, or street-litter pick up.
- **Read-A-Thon:** Students collect pledges based on how many books they have read during a time period.
- **Walk-A-Thon:** Students are sponsored for miles trekked.
- **Bike-A-Thon:** Students are sponsored for miles biked.
- **Hula-hoop-A-Thon:** Have participants get pledges for the number of seconds or minutes they can hula before the hoop falls.
- **Guess-A-Thon:** Guess the number or weight – Jars of jellybeans, pennies, dried beans, etc. Give a prize for the closest guess.

**Community Yard Sale:** Organize a yard sale in which students' family donates items to sell. Promote the event ahead of time and say what the sale will benefit. At the yard sale, put out a jar or basket for additional donations.

**Auction:** Consider a live or silent community auction. Ask local businesses, artists, and artisans to contribute goods. Advertise or list the auction in local papers. Enlist service clubs for help, such as Rotary, Elks, or Lions.

**Banquet:** Students' families donate one dish for a potluck dinner. Ask community center, service club, or church to donate space. Include entertainment such as a local band. Students can talk about why Point Bonita YMCA's Outdoor Education Program is important for their education and learning.

**Coupon Book:** Collect coupons from local businesses and put them together in a book made from recycled paper and cardboard. Charge a price for book that gives buyers a savings on purchases.

**Scholarship Letter:** Teachers help students write a letter that requests financial help for their participation in the outdoor education program. Letter can be sent to organizations, service clubs, parents, or other persons.

**Fundraising Cookbook:** Have parents, students and teachers submit their favorite recipes to put in the cookbook. Sell your cookbook at another fundraising event.

**Car Wash:** Ask a local carwash to donate/contribute the soap and water.

**Carnival:** Include games like fishpond, dunk tank, throw hoops over bottles, tug of war, etc.

**White Elephant Sales & Silent Auction:** Ask businesses to donate closeout merchandise. Many of them just want to get rid of items.

**Matching Gift:** Ask a corporation or individual to match any donations your organization collects in a specified amount of time. Then, contact potential donors about giving to match the gift.

**Eat for a Cause:** Ask a local restaurant to donate 10% of their profits on a designated night for your cause in exchange for encouraging supporters to eat there.

**Social Media Call:** Let potential donors know about your fundraising need through Facebook and Twitter.

### **Other Ideas**

Bake & Craft sales	Ice cream social
Used book fair	Popcorn sales
Bingo	Singing Valentines
Dance marathon	Chess tournament
Movie night	Battle of the bands
Dog walk/pet sitting	Barbeque
Talent Show	Happy Grams
Lottery/Raffle	Recycling Fundraiser
Childcare	
Make a Request on <a href="http://DonorsChose.org">DonorsChose.org</a>	

**\*\* Why not turn a normal school event into a fundraiser?** Spelling bees, school plays, math contests, even school dances can be fundraising events. For math contests, debates or spelling bees, the participant will get sponsors to donate money for every right answer, or every right word, or even based on whether or not they'll win the contest. With dances, a portion of the proceeds can go to the program, and any concessions sold that night can also add to donations.

These are only a few creative ideas for fundraising. The types of events and activities for fundraisers are virtually limitless!

Good luck, and may your next fundraiser be a success!