

Funding

Here is a suggestions' list of funding methods to suggest to your students. Their participation empowers them and motivates them to achieve the goal while stimulating their interest in the nature class itself.

Remember to make visible the name of the school and the nature of the project for each fundraising event.

Quick Tips:

- Set up a team (physical education teacher, direction members, parent volunteers, etc.) to help you organize and carry out the chosen activities. Set a financial goal for each activity and set a very specific role for each participant.
- Choose age-appropriate means to involve students as much as possible. You can also make connections with the program: indicate the money raised in a diagram, write letters, do research, etc.
- Check if a local organization or a merchant could not help you by lending you some equipment (microphone, sound system, barbecue, coffee maker, etc.) in exchange for visibility on the activity site.
- Record all donations and keep them in a rigorous accounting. Do not forget to officially thank your sponsors by a letter or a photo taken at the time of the activity.
- Spread information about the event on social media, post it at the local corner store, community centres, school bulletin boards, local businesses and newspapers—anywhere you can.
- Think of reasons why people donate and select the ones that will help you develop arguments for supporting your fundraising activity:

Why do people donate or support a project?

- because they understand the benefits of the project;
- because they know that their donation will produce positive results;
- because they believe in the purpose of the project or the mission of the organization;
- because they trust the organization and know that their money will be used well;
- because they feel proud to contribute to their community.

Here are some examples of arguments for a nature class project:

- value the importance of a physically active lifestyle, outdoor activities, awareness of the natural environment, etc.;
 - support the education mission of the neighborhood school;
 - Promote equal opportunities by helping disadvantaged families to send their child to such an experience.
- Each means of funding has its advantages and disadvantages. It is important to be aware of this to make a wise choice and give yourself the best chance of success. We will preferably choose means that do not require too much preparation or organization work and that will yield a lot of money, projects that are simple to implement because we already have the resources we need. It is also important to consider student involvement and their age in the selection.

Activities

- Theme Dinner/Family Brunch/Community Dinner
- Bazaar (parents and neighbours give unused items)
- Dance/special day (e.g. family or neighborhood Olympics)
- Collect of refundable cans in the neighborhood or in the families (with “can-o-meter”, which illustrates the sums raised)
- car wash-o-thon, marathon, walk-a-thon, read-o-thon
- Community services on donations (raking leaves, shovelling snow, etc.)
- Christmas gift wrapping or packing service in some stores or grocery stores
- Christmas performance or concert (choir)
- Auction, ball or charity dinner with guests of honour
- Rally/treasure hunt by car (participation fee per car)
- Conference (check with parents if someone would have a great experience to tell and if they could do it for free)
- Establish a Guinness record or achieve a special challenge

Product Sales

- Food products: citrus fruits or apples, local cheeses, honey
- Fair trade products: coffee, tea, spices, chocolate
- Organic or natural products: baskets of vegetables, cleaning products
- Gardening products: seeds and plants, trees, flower boxes, compost
- Products according to holidays’ calendar: Halloween pumpkins, Christmas trees, Valentine’s Day cards, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, Easter chocolates
- Prize draws tickets provided by sponsors (gift card, artwork, etc.)
- Distribution of water bottles at local sporting events (tournament, road race, municipal party)

Students, parents or teachers’ creations

- Used books or arts fair (candles, greeting cards, bookmarks, jewellery, key rings, etc.)
- Collective recipe book’s sale (suggested themes: quick meals, healthy meal, my favourite meal, the best cookie recipes)

- Classroom crafted calendar's sale (pictures, drawings, poems, thoughts, riddles, did you know that ...?)

Alternative ideas

- Solicit social clubs (Optimists, Richelieu, Kiwanis, Lions)
- Seek the support of MPs and elected officials, to be photographed with them in the local newspaper
- Approach neighbouring supermarket owners (or other businesses) to obtain monetary or in-kind sponsorship (products)
- Put boxes to collect donations in various strategic locations (at school, in shops, at the mall and in other public places)
- Scratch cards for donations

