



Surrey Poet Laureateship

Fundraising At Work



Fundraising at work can be a fun way to come together as a team. Whether you're looking for an activity that can be done in the office, remotely, or in another workplace, our group fundraising ideas are sure to get your colleagues involved.

Dress Up Day

Invite your colleagues to donate to dress to a theme for the day in support of the Surrey Poet Laureateship. Here are a few fun ideas to get you started:

- Dress as a Poet – Think berets, notebooks, vintage vibes or come as your favourite famous poet - Elizabethan ruff anyone? Channel William Shakespeare with a dramatic collar, embrace the romantic flair of Lord Byron, or keep it modern and meaningful like Maya Angelou
- Words You Wear – Dress as your favourite word
- Rhyme Time – Pair up and dress as famous rhyming duos.

Why not add to the fun by considering awarding small prizes for the most creative, poetic or imaginative outfits!



Sweepstakes

Sweepstakes are another old staple and very easy to organise. There are also plenty of themes to choose from. You could tie it in with big sports events like the World Cup, the Olympics, or Wimbledon. For something more frequent, you could run a sweepstake for popular TV programmes like Strictly Come Dancing or The Great British Bake-Off.



Fantasy football

Set up a fantasy football league online and ask people to pay an entry fee. There could be weekly penalties (no pun intended) for specific actions. For example, if 1 of your players scores an own goal, then you increase your donation.

Sports day

Why not get your colleagues together for a sports day? This can be a great way to get in touch with your inner child. You could get staff to vote on a list of events beforehand, from egg and spoon race to tug-of-war and beyond.





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Hold a cycling or rowing day

Get an exercise bike or rowing machine in the office and see how quickly you and your colleagues can cycle the distance between Lands End and John O'Groats, or row The Surrey Circumnavigation - a route of 200 miles that follows the Surrey border!

You could ask your colleagues who don't want to get sweaty to sponsor you, or run a competition for colleagues to guess how long it will take - colleague with the closest guess wins a prize!



Bake sale

A classic fundraiser! Encourage a few colleagues to bake their best show-stoppers, or ask everyone to bring something in. If you're feeling competitive, set up a panel of judges who award the best 3 cakes with rosettes, and the worst cake with a wooden spoon.



Espresso and Expression

A coffee morning where you and your colleagues can share one of their favourite poems, or one of their own! Can also include a "Poem of the Day" printout on each table. Colleagues can donate the cost of their coffee to read; the cakes and drinks add extra income.

Go Green

Work dress-down days can be a lot of fun for employees, especially on Fridays after a long work week. For something a bit different, why not choose a theme, such as the colour green.

Everyone taking part could donate money for painting their face green, wearing something green or dressing up as a green character - think Shrek or Elphaba. You could ask colleagues for a donation to take part, or you could ask for 1 donation per green item.

Those feeling generous could really embrace the theme by wearing green shoes, socks, trousers, t-shirt and jacket - complete with green face paint and a green wig!



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Hold an online auction

Organise a silent auction, with colleagues placing their bids online. You could set up a Facebook group with everyone involved, and announce the winner via the group. As a prize, you could ask your colleagues to 'sell' their skills. For example, giving up their time to teach something - from guitar lessons and knitting, to gourmet cooking and make-up tips.

Test the chef

Share some healthy recipes at your workplace, and ask a colleague to cook 1 recipe for the team each week. Everyone could donate what they usually spend on lunch, with profits raised going to Surrey Poet Laureateship. If your workplace has a kitchen with enough equipment, see if you can arrange for your chosen 'chef' to use it if needed.



Quiz night

Quiz nights are a popular and easy fundraising idea to do, both in-person and remotely. Simply choose a date, set your questions and invite colleagues to take part in exchange for a donation. For a poetic touch, include rounds such as "Finish the Line" and challenge teams to provide the missing closing line or "Name That Bard" and have participants guess the poet behind the prose.



Foreign coins

You could ask everyone to bring in all their loose notes and coins from their latest holiday abroad. Ask a colleague to gather everyone's contributions and get them converted to British pounds, before donating them to the Surrey Poet Laureateship.

Head to head

Feeling competitive? Have an inter-departmental contest, where departments go head to head to achieve a specific goal, such as filling a container with a certain amount of money. If you have more than 1 office, you could also hold a branch-on-branch competition. For example, you could find out the distance between the offices and set up an exercise bike with a map to show the distance. Team members work together to complete the cycle, as the pin on the map moves to show how far they've travelled. Who can raise the most? Who can complete the challenge fastest?