



Fundraising Ideas for College Teams

50/50 Raffle:

Purchase a roll of raffle tickets and have your team members sell these tickets around campus. When a ticket is purchased, rip off one end and give it to the donor. Make sure you have their name and contact information on the other half and place it in a container. When it comes time to draw a winner, simply draw a ticket from the bucket and contact the winner. The winner will receive half of the amount collected from the ticket sales and the other half will be donated to Autism Speaks. [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

Bake Sale:

Have everyone from your team bring in individually priced baked goods to sell. Choose a time and location where many students will be present, such as in a major hallway between classes or during lunch. [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

Battle of the Bands:

Round up a group of bands willing to play for charity and ask them to publicize it to all of their fans. Find an appropriate space at your school, or ask a local restaurant if they can host the event for you. Ask if they'll contribute a portion of food and beverage sales if you bring a lot of people into their establishment. Sell most of your tickets in advance so you can accurately plan for the event. Make advanced ticket sales slightly cheaper than your door price to entice people to purchase tickets early. Secure a local celebrity, radio personality, or student or faculty leader to serve as your emcee. Try to have a gift certificate or prize donated by a local business that you can give to the winning band. [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

Bid for a Date:

Recruit eligible singles from fraternities, sororities, sports teams, art clubs, and other campus groups to participate in a dating auction. Build a committee that can help you ask local restaurants, movie theaters and spas to donate meals, services and gift certificates to be paired with the eligible bachelor or bachelorette. Hang fliers in all of the popular student hang-outs, ask professors if you can make public service announcements during class, and reach out to your campus radio station to promote the auction and sell tickets. Try to enlist the support of a local celebrity, popular student, or faculty leader to host the event and act as both master of ceremonies and auctioneer. Write brief and entertaining biographies for each of the singles. Send each student out on a date with the donated prizes. [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

Board Game Night:

Host a board game night on campus or in your apartment, and have your team members lend board games. You can either have your guests pay a general participation fee or a fee per game. You can play rounds of games in a tournament style and have a playoff for the winners. Have simple prizes for your winners at the end of the night. [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

Bowl-a-Thon:

A bowling fundraiser can be a really fun way to raise money for your team. Simply rent a group of lanes or the entire building from a bowling alley, and start soliciting teams. Before purchasing lanes, ask the bowling alley if they will donate some or all of the lanes to you. Charge an entry fee for participants and spectators. You can even set it up tournament style or have donated prizes awarded for most strikes, lowest score, or even most gutter balls! [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

CandyGrams:

A CandyGram is candy bar or gift bag of candy with a note attached that you can sell to around campus. When students buy the CandyGrams, they write a note to the person they're buying it for, and the CandyGram is then delivered to that person during a designated time. It's a really fun way for people to give holiday gifts to their friends, and it can be a really easy way to fundraise for your team! [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

Carwash:

Pick a busy location for your carwash such as a gas station or a campus parking lot. Make sure your location has exterior water access and that you have permission to use the space and water. Make signs to promote your event, gather your team members and supplies, and then you're ready to go! [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

Casino Night:

For a casino night you will need a space to host your event, game tables, and dealers from a party rental company. You may also need a special permit to host games of chance if your vendor requires one. Set your ticket price to cover the cost of your casino rentals. Ask friends and your on-campus catering company to donate food. Sell casino chips for guests to gamble with. At the end of the night, have them cash in their chips for raffle tickets that they can use to try to win donated prizes. Draw the winning raffle tickets and announce your winners. [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

Concessions at Local Events:

This can be a day of fun for your team while earning donations at the same time! Contact your local sports teams, especially at the high school and college level, and get on their list of concession stand volunteers. You typically have to sign up far in advance because this is a popular fundraiser. Bring your team members and assign everyone to different tasks such as grilling burgers, making soft pretzels, handing out drinks, and being cashiers. After the game, your team will receive a certain percentage of the day's total. [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

Dance-A-Thon:

Participants will pay for a night of dancing! The event can vary in length from 4 hours to a full 12 hours and should include a variety of music, performers, and food. Prizes can be awarded for best dancers or those who dance for the longest time. [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

Fundraising Night at a Local Restaurant/Bar:

Call around to your local restaurants, pubs, and bars and ask them if they do fundraising days/nights for clubs or charities. Create fliers to hand out around your community to promote your event, and when someone makes a purchase on the night of your event, you'll receive a percentage of the sale. [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

Intramural Sports Tournament:

Ask your school's intramural sports teams to participate in a tournament to benefit autism. Have each player or team pay a designated amount to participate in the tournament, and charge spectators a small fee as well. In addition to your promotion efforts, ask players to sell tickets to their friends. Ask the campus radio station to promote and emcee the event. Finally, ask a local pizza place to donate a pizza party for the winning team after the event. [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

Karaoke for a Cure:

You will need a karaoke machine, a hall or gymnasium to host the event, and a passionate crowd of would-be American Idols. Charge attendees a general admission fee, and also charge them \$1 per song to buy into the contest. You can also ask the audience to donate money to hear a high-profile administrator sing. The school cheerleaders or the football team as a group can draw a huge amount of money too! Don't forget to inspire and reward your performers. Ask local businesses to donate prizes for best performance, funniest performance, etc. Prizes can range from the extravagant, like an iPod, to a \$5 gift certificate from the local ice cream place. Even simple printed awards for best group performance can work! [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

Letter Writing Event:

Set up tables and supplies in a large classroom or gathering place and have everyone bring a list of people to send letters to. For inspiration you can show a video about autism or have a parent, service provider, or sibling talk about autism. Send your letters to friends, family, and members of your community asking for a donation for your fundraising efforts. [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

Money Jars:

Decorate jars and ask local businesses to display them in their stores. You can also place jars around campus as long as they're in a secure, high traffic location. Money jars are an easy way to fundraise, and they can be really successful because every little bit of change helps!

Odd Jobs for a Fee:

Do you like to baby-sit, pet-sit, walk dogs, or do yard work? Advertise that your proceeds will be donated, and offer your services to your teachers, family members, and neighbors. You can do these odd jobs on your own or as a team. For example, an entire team might offer to do yard work for a family one morning. You will be amazed by how much people are willing to pay for your services if they know that it's benefiting autism.

Pie Throwing Contest:

Pick a prominent person on campus such as a dean, class president, or football coach to be your target. Purchase bulk packs of pie shells, fill them with whipped cream, and charge participants to throw pies at your target. Hold this contest in a crowded area on campus. If you select great targets and advertise in a fun way around campus, this should be a big success!

Photo/Artwork Contest:

This is a great way for aspiring photographers and artists to display and show off their work. Ask for submissions from your fellow students and set up their pictures like an art show. You can either make it a funny photo contest, or you can set it up where the most creative piece of art wins. In order to raise money, make it a juried art show, and everyone in the school can participate by voting. Place a jar, can, or box in front of each picture in which people can place coins or bills to vote for their favorites. Make sure to set up your contest in a high traffic but secure location such as in a dining hall, student lounge, or on-campus art gallery. Leave the display set up for at week or two until the contest is over. The winner will be the one with the most money in their jar at the end of the contest. [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

Puzzle Piece Campaign:

Sell Autism Speaks puzzle pieces around campus for \$1 and display them in a prominent location such as in major hallways, student lounges, and computer labs. Turn this into a contest between dorms, majors, classes, and clubs to see who can sell the most puzzle pieces around campus. The winning group can receive a small prize of your choice. [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

Video Game Tournament:

Pick an appropriate location on campus and have someone bring in a gaming system to use for this fundraiser. Wii Bowling tournaments are popular, as are Guitar Hero or Rockband tournaments. Each participant pays to play in the tournament. A tournament bracket should be made, and participants can move forward in the tournament as they win each round. [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

Contact your local Autism Speaks office for step-by-step instructions about how to host each of the fundraisers or if you want materials to display at your event such as brochures and Walk Now for Autism Speaks banners.