



How to Host a 50/50 Raffle

Running a 50/50 raffle is incredibly simple, and it's a great activity to hold in your work place, school or community. Below are the step by step instructions on how to hold a successful event:

- **Purchase Tickets:** Purchase a roll of raffle tickets at a party store or dollar store. You can even make them yourself – just create duplicate tickets with the same serial number, so that one ticket goes to the purchaser, and you keep the other for your collection bucket.
- **Advertise Your Sale:** If the raffle is at the workplace, ask your HR manager or office administrator if you can hang signs, send out an email, or go door-to-door/desk-to-desk to let people know about it. If the raffle at a school or community center, ask an administrator or leader how you can best advertise the sale.
- **Pick the Right Day:** Fridays or pay-days are great days to host 50/50 raffles. If you're holding it in a school or at a community event, plan it for a busy time when you'll have maximum traffic such as an assembly, PTA meeting, or parent/teacher night.
- **Something to Consider:** Make sure that your sales comply with local regulations regarding games of chance. Depending on the location of your sales, you may be required to receive a special permit from the state and have your sale approved.
- **Sell Raffle Tickets and Collect Donations:** Go door-to-door, desk-to-desk, classroom to classroom, or to various spots in your community and sell as many tickets to each person as they want, for a donated fee of your discretion. Try something like \$1 per ticket, 12 tickets for \$10, or 20 tickets for \$15. You know your audience best – price them accordingly.

It helps if you are in a community that is familiar with autism and the mission of Autism Speaks. As you approach a potential donor, introduce yourself and share your reason for fundraising for autism research. Your local Autism Speaks office can provide you with brochures to hand out to your donors so that they can learn more. Who knows...maybe you'll recruit a few members for your team!

If you're going to do your drawing on the spot, there is no need for people to fill out their name or number. If you're going to do a drawing later, make sure to take their information so that you can let them know that they've won. Once a sale is made, rip the ticket in half giving one half to the purchaser, and placing the other half in a hat, box or bucket. Make sure you tell each participant how much they can possibly win to build suspense!

- **Counting Donations:** Add up the entire amount you have collected and divide it in half. One half goes to the winner and the other half to your team. Often, the winner will donate a portion or all of their winnings back to your cause!
- **Picking Your Winner:** When it comes time to draw a winner, simply draw a ticket from the bucket and announce the winner. Keep in mind - anyone can draw the winning ticket, but it helps to have someone from the fundraising committee or an impartial person (who didn't purchase a ticket) to pull the winner.
- **Present the Money to the Winner:** Make sure you alert everyone who purchased a ticket who the winner was. For example, announce it via loud speaker or post it in a public place so that everyone can see the name of the person and the amount they have won.

Contact your local Autism Speaks office for autism-related materials to display at your event, such as brochures and Walk Now for Autism Speaks banners.