



SERVE

WETASKIWIN | 2026

2026 SERVE Fundraising Primer

SERVE 2026 is going to be incredible and it also costs money and that means fundraising. This primer is meant to help you on your fundraising journey and hopefully make the task at hand less intimidating.

Why Fundraise?

Apart from the obvious benefit of raising funds for SERVE, there are many other reasons why fundraising is great for your church and team. Here are a few benefits:

- Grow Excitement - As students fundraise for months, momentum and excitement grow to actually go.
- Team Building - Students get to practice working together as a team serving before going to SERVE growing collaboration and cohesion.
- Purposeful Understanding – as students fundraise and are asked what SERVE is, students need to learn how to articulate why they're going to SERVE and what it's about
- Commitment - As students and leaders "work" during your fundraisers their commitment to SERVE will grow.

Fundraising ideas:

- Bottle drive or bottle refund account: in some regions you may be able to set up an account with the bottle depot and anyone who returns bottles can donate the refund to the account. Share your account number with the church, friends and family. If you set up an account, this is a very easy way to raise money.
- Bake sale and/or garage sale - garage sales are A LOT of work so consider the many, many hours involved before deciding if it's worth it.
- Silent auction and dinner
- Some cities may offer grants to students who do projects around the city.
- Community car wash
- Babysitting night: community and church members can drop their kids off at the church for dinner and activities while the parents go out. By donation or set fee. Make sure you follow your church's safe ministry policy.
- Youth-led worship service with a special offering for SERVE (pastor/board approved)
- Need more ideas – <https://youthworks.com/blog/101-fundraising-ideas/>

Structure:

- Any youth who attends the fundraiser receives a percentage of the money raised from that fundraiser. Eg. If 8 youth show up, divide the money into eighths.
- Ask for parental support. Fundraisers don't need to happen unless parents can show up and provide supervision
- Monthly fundraisers are a good timing. Suggest doing fundraisers on different days/time to give students opportunity to attend several
- Recommend that parents pay for student registration and fundraisers cover the rest of the costs

Other Fundraising Tips:

- Be clear and upfront about what the money raised will cover and what it will not cover.
- Recommend that church's budget cover cost of youth leaders.
- Be sure to target different audiences to raise money.
- Ask the students to brainstorm their ideas for fundraising