



Games & Contests

15-Yard Dash

Divide your group into teams of fewer than three and no more than six students. Set up the teams about four weeks ahead of time. Offer a big prize for the winners (e.g., pizza dinner, next youth trip or retreat for free, etc.).

Every team will need a lawn mower and whatever other tools they want to use. Some may want to do trimming, edging, or weeding for an extra charge. Start early in the morning to allow plenty of time. Set a designated return time. The winner could be the first to mow 15 yards (or whatever number you decide on), the team with the most bags of grass, the team that raises the most money throughout the day, etc.

Flamingo Flocking

Purchase 10 pink plastic flamingo lawn decorations. Pick x number of yards to be the “lucky” recipients. Attach cards to the flamingos’ necks with a phone number and all the pertinent information regarding your group. Charge a \$5 donation for removing the flamingos, \$10 for removing them and selecting someone else to send them to next, and \$15 to remove, resend, and find out who sent them to you. Make sure you also place a sign that has a contact name and phone number alongside the flamingos for those who drive by and would like to have the flamingos placed in a friend’s yard. (Also give the option to simply pick up the flamingo gratis, since some people have no sense of fun.) It takes some organization, but is lots of fun. An additional fund-raising idea is to sell “Pink Flamingo Insurance” for \$10 to protect yourself from the invasion of these pink pests.

Variation #1: Send announcements on pink paper about your upcoming Pink Flamingo fund-raiser. Word your announcement something like this: “A Pink Flamingo May Visit Your Family! On May 22, the youth group of [your church] will conduct its first annual Pink Flamingo Fund-raiser. We have several lovely pink flamingos, one of which may end up on your front lawn. We have divided the [church, school, etc.] into four Flamingo Areas. Inside each pink flamingo is a list of the names and addresses of church members living in one of the Flamingo Areas. On the appointed day, the youth group will plant each of the flamingos on the front lawn of one family from the Flamingo list. If the flamingo ends up in your front yard, you can pledge a donation to the youth group’s Speed the Light giving, cross your name off the flamingo list, replant the flamingo in the yard of someone whose name has not yet been crossed off the list. The flamingo may not remain in the same yard for more than 24 hours. It is not necessary to follow the order of names on the list. HOWEVER, if you do not wish to see a pink flamingo on your lawn ever, you may buy **Insurance for the Prevention of Large Pink Birds** for only \$10. See any member of the youth group to purchase insurance. Purchase deadline is May 15.”

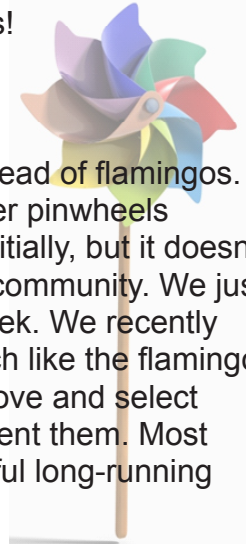
Variation #2: Hold a good, old-fashion flocking at your youth group room or office. Make cut-outs of pink flamingos and charge students/co-workers to flock other people’s offices or cubes. Take the cut-outs or plastic flamingos and decorate the flockee’s area. You can charge \$1 per flamingo, which will generate tons of money for your group. The bigger the flockin’, the better.



Variation #3: Get a bunch of pink flamingos. If you decide on the large plastic birds, expect to pay about \$5 each. Put the flamingos in a church member's yard. The idea is that the yard will look so hideous with the pink birds that the church member will be more than happy to give a donation toward the fund-raiser to get them out of there. Some options to consider are:

- pre-sell flamingo insurance to prevent yards from getting flocked;
- when a church member gets flocked, they get to pick the next victim; and
- have a map at the church that charts the birds' "flight pattern" or progress around the area.

We found that this fund-raising idea provided benefits far beyond what was expected. Letting the member whose yard is flocked choose the next yard included far more members than we expected. Not only members who attended worship every Sunday were flocked; we used it as an outreach tool. We flocked people who rarely attended, or who had only just started visiting! We discovered that no one was willing to be the last one to pass them on! Everyone was interested in where the flocks were (we had four flocks out). Conversation between members on Sunday morning usually started with, "I saw the flamingos in your yard...." The birds really brought the "family" together. And we even heard, "I'm glad they came to our house. I thought we were going to be left out." Allowing for fund-raising donations instead of a set fee increased our income. The average donations was \$25, but donations actually ranged from \$10 - \$200! We were able to raise close to \$2,000. Give it a try. We had a great time with the cute, pink, little birds!



Shower with Flowers

Another fund-raising event similar to the flamingo flocking is to use flowers instead of flamingos. We like to call it "Shower with Flowers." We scatter 40-60 brightly-colored flower pinwheels throughout the front lawn of various homes. We started with group members initially, but it doesn't take long before we were "Showering" outside of our small group and into the community. We just started this fund-raiser this July and we have been averaging one home per week. We recently ordered more flowers and have begun an additional "zone." Our system is much like the flamingo flocking. We charge a \$5 donation for simply removing the flowers, \$10 to remove and select someone to send them to next, and \$15 to remove, resend, and find out who sent them. Most people choose the \$15 option. This has been our most enjoyable and successful long-running fund-raising idea so far.

Y.C.J.C.Y.1.D.

Put up signs in your youth group room that say Y.C.J.C.Y.1.D. When students start to ask what it means, tell them that for \$1 they can find out. After they pay the dollar, give them a card that says "Your Curiosity Just Cost You One Dollar." Feel free to use as the night's sermon illustration.

Fake Election

Hold a fake race for youth group mayor (president, jester, big wig, grand ruler, etc.) in which dollars count as votes to receive the honorary title of "Mayor of _____." The candidate who places second can be named "Mayor Pro Tem," and the top five runners-up can be named to the "City Council."



Sticky Fly

Find a popular youth leader willing to participate. You'll also need lots of duct tape. Post flyers around the church a week ahead of time advertising your fund-raiser. On the appointed day, find a spot where students and church members pass by regularly. Set a chair up against a wall so that the side of the chair (NOT the back or front, otherwise it won't work right) is firmly against the wall. Place a couple of gym mats or cushions in front of the chair as a precaution.

Have the youth leader stand up on the chair with his/her back against the wall. For \$.50 or \$1 per foot of duct tape, students and church members can tape the youth leader to the wall. When the youth leader is firmly taped to the wall, stop selling tape. Announce that you will now remove the chair to see just how long the "fly" can stick to the wall. If you want to, before removing the chair, have people guess how long they think the youth leader will remain on the wall. It makes the game even more interesting for everyone. When my friend and I did it, we raised nearly \$100. Sticky Fly is a great way to involve the students and church members in a fun and engaging activity, and to raise awareness for Speed the Light at the same time.



Ugly Tie Contest

Allow the children and youth of your church to each decorate a man's neck tie. Use all sorts of tacky things to glue on the ties—buttons, lace, small toys, flowers, etc. Display the ties in a prominent location in your church. Put a jar or bucket beneath each tie. \$.25 or \$.50 equals one vote. The tie which receives the most votes at the end of a month is the winner. The pastor or youth pastor gets to wear the winner during a Sunday morning service. My husband (our pastor) looked gorgeous this year with his tacky tie.

Ugliest Christmas Tree Ornament Contest

For a \$1 or \$5 entry fee, students can submit the ugliest Christmas Tree ornament they can find for purchase. Rules: They HAVE TO spend money on it, and they may NOT alter it in any way; it has to be NATURALLY ugly. Find an equally ugly tree (we've found a hideous neon pink tree before) to decorate with all of the ugly ornaments submitted. Have students go around the tree and vote on the ornament they think is the ugliest. The proud owner of the ugliest ornament is the "winner" and gets a predetermined prize. (We always let the winner keep the ugly tree with all of the ugly ornaments too, but you may want to leave the tree up in the youth area for a while.)

