



Chapter Fundraising Case Study: Pie the Professor

Basic Information

School: California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. A public school of approx. 22,000 students in a suburban area, east of Los Angeles.

Approximate number of physics graduates per year: 25

Fundraising Information

Brief description of fundraiser:

The Society of Physics Students at Cal Poly Pomona teamed up with the mathematics honors society for a Pi Day festival. The afternoon event took place during the “U-Hour” time slot, when no classes are held on campus, encouraging students to get involved in on-campus community efforts. In addition to pies being sold at a small profit margin, with whipped cream as an additional fee, throwing pies could be purchased for \$1. In addition to selling pies for eating and pies for throwing, a penny war was instated to challenge the physics department against the math department.

Approximate amount raised: \$300

Time Investment:

Planning/Prep time took around 5 hours of student time. This includes contacting a variety of grocery stores to donate whipping cream, collecting and counting the pennies and acquiring all of the necessary materials (don't forget trash bags to cover up clothing!). If the event were expanded to include other interdepartmental challenges, more time would be necessary.

Financial Investment:

Pie Throwing Competition: Under \$20. With lightweight pie tins donated from local pie shops, and donated whipping cream, we purchased industrial size trash bags to cover clothing with.

Pie Selling: We were fortunate to have an SPS member with a Costco membership, and purchased pies for \$10 per, selling 8 slices per pie at \$2.00 each, with \$0.50 for whipping cream.

Penny Wars: \$0. SPS members donated large oatmeal containers for collecting the funds in the Penny War, and the mathematics department provided their own donation jar. Since the prize was a throwing pie, the prize had no cost either.

Tips for Chapters

- Contact local grocery stores to see if they will donate whipping cream!
- Remind your volunteers to bring a change of clothing, and wear clothes they don't mind ruining. Whipping Cream (if oil based) can stain and start to smell quickly.



SOCIETY OF PHYSICS STUDENTS

An organization of the American Institute of Physics

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- Start the Penny Wars a few weeks early! The winning department can pie the other department's chair (or other volunteer). If you have multiple departments competing, the winning department can pie whoever they choose, or they can pie the rest! It is up to you!
- Add other events to increase the competitive spirit! Sponsor an Integration Bee, Egg Drop contest, etc. with minimal entrance fees (\$1), and a grand prize being the ability to distribute the entrance fees into the penny wars, or free throwing pies.