

## Congress Fundraising Ideas

**Attending the 2016 Quadrennial Physics Congress may be costly for many students, but effective chapter fundraising can make it much more affordable.** Below are some ideas that SPS chapters have used successfully to raise money. Keep in mind that not all of these ideas may be possible, allowed, or successful on your campus. Please do your research before administering these suggestions.

### *Raise and save money using campus resources*

1. Approach your Student Government/Senate for funds, emphasizing what makes the Congress notable and of high regard.
2. Approach your college administration for funds, or matching funds. You will probably have the best success if you do this well in advance.
3. Ask your research/REU advisor if you can receive travel funding for presenting work at the congress. Often funding for research talks is included in research grants.
4. With permission from the physics department and your development/alumni office, solicit donations from your department alumni.
5. Take advantage of unused items in your department. Ask faculty for donations of books and old apparatuses and sell them on campus via online sites such as e-bay.
6. If you plan to drive, inquire about a discounted van rental. You might start with the athletic office for this, as most schools own or rent the vans teams use for traveling to games. The college might have vehicles available to students and faculty as well.
7. Talk to other campus groups about their fundraising efforts and ask your student senate's budget committee (or equivalent) about other means clubs use successfully.

### *Raise or save money through partnerships*

1. Contact local churches or community entities that have their own buses or vans to see if they are willing to provide discounted transportation, even if it's just to the airport.
2. Seek local sponsorship from places students in your chapter frequent, such as restaurants, coffee shops, and technical businesses. Some restaurants will hold profit-sharing events where for every dollar spent on a particular evening, a percentage will be donated to a designated group.



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3. If you have a large group that will be flying, approach airlines for a group rate. A group rate makes it easy to secure passage for the whole group on the same flight.

#### *Raise money through sales and services*

1. Sell physics and astronomy themed items during campus and/or SPS activities.
2. Sell donuts, baked goods, liquid nitrogen ice cream, pie (especially on 3/14!), or other snacks in high-traffic areas on campus. In addition to donuts, many people appreciate coffee and tea. You can even look into installing a vending machine.
3. Sell raffle tickets for a prize, such as physics toys, movies, autographed books, or t-shirts. Try to get companies or faculty to donate prizes to maximize profit. You can also do a 50/50 raffle for cash.
4. Hold a Rent-A-Student fundraiser where faculty and staff make donations to your chapter in exchange for 3-4 hours of student help with raking leaves or other chores.

#### *Raise money through other fundraisers*

1. Rent out a laser tag arcade (or similar venue) for a night and sell tickets to students campus-wide as a fundraiser.
2. Hold a Pie-a-Professor fundraiser. This can be done several ways, for example you can collect donations for individual faculty (who have agreed!) and pie a faculty member in the face for every \$x donated. You can also pit faculty members against one another and pie the faculty member in whose name the most money is donated.
3. Host games during Homecoming or other campus events, such as a projectile-motion dunk tank, and charge per throw or have a tip jar.
4. Hold a change drive – ask students to contribute spare change. Many people have a spare change jar and pennies add up!

#### *What to include in a funding proposal*

1. Address how you will benefit from attending the Congress. You could say that it would be a networking opportunity (within the scope of graduate school, careers, etc.) that you would not find anywhere else.
2. Address how it would be a good investment for the donor and your future. Mention those who you will be able to meet (including keynote speakers and attendees who can affect



your future, such as those representing companies or graduate schools), and how you can represent your department/university or, if you are presenting a poster, your PI's research.

3. Be sure to quantify your budget. This includes transportation, lodging, registration fees, and other expenses.
4. If writing to your department or some other organization, a letter of support from a professor or someone similar would be very helpful.

Remember to promote Congress in whatever fundraiser you may be doing! It is always best to spread the word, especially if word of it reaches the ear of someone who *\*really\** wants to help.

Other fundraising ideas can be found online. Key Club International and SACNAS, for example, have potentially useful information on their websites. See links below:

Key Club International: <http://www.keyclub.org/service/fund/fpi.aspx>

SACNAS: <https://sacnas.org/year-round-programs/chapters/chapter-resources>

#### *Things to know when budgeting your trip*

1. The registration fee is approximately \$200.
2. The Quadrennial Physics Congress will take place in San Francisco, so airline ticket prices will vary dramatically by region. Ticket prices vary significantly throughout the seasons, so plan ahead to get the best prices.
3. Lodging will be at the Hyatt Regency-San Francisco Airport hotel for 3 nights. The cost is around \$175 after tax for singles, doubles, triples, quads, and suites.
4. The following meals will be provided:
  - Thursday: Dinner
  - Friday: Breakfast + Lunch
  - Saturday: Lunch + Dinner
5. Airport-hotel transportation and transportation to tour sites are provided.