

# TAU BETA SIGMA WESTERN DISTRICT FUNDRAISING IDEAS



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## **Bake Sales**

Submitted By: Omega (Marisa Lunde - marisalunde@gmail.com)

### **Summary of Fundraiser:**

Have volunteers donate baked goods to sell to students on campus or to shoppers at a grocery store.

### **Supplies Needed:**

- Table
- Chairs
- Table cloth
- Posters
- Donated baked goods

### **Instructions:**

- 1-2 weeks prior: have a sign-up sheet for baked goods (makes sure there's a selection)
- 1-2 hours prior: collect all the baked goods or have participants drop them off at the beginning of the event
- 15-30 minutes prior: set up the event and prepare to sell

### **Suggestions/Tips/Miscellaneous:**

- If hosting at a supermarket, ask if you can have a small ensemble play pep tunes
- Make sure you have a variety of foods and that everything looks pretty
- Take advantage of holidays
- Have 2 people working at any one time so you don't get lonely

## Band Day

Submitted by: Omega (Marisa Lunde - marisalunde@gmail.com)

### Summary of Fundraiser:

During our annual Band Day (a festival featuring the POA and high school bands), we sell Pride of Arizona merchandise to spectators. In addition, we have a “penny wars” between the high school bands and give half the proceeds from the jars to the high school with the most and the other half back to our organization.

### Supplies Needed:

- Marching band merchandise:
  - Stadium Seat Cushions
  - Car Decals
  - “Band Day” T-Shirts
  - Key Chains
  - Water Bottles
  - Calendars
  - Sunglasses
- Jars and labels for penny wars
- Tables
- Chairs

### Instructions:

- Several hours before, set up the table and get any last minute details figured out
- Keep the table organized by cleaning up during slow parts of the day

### Suggestions/Tips/Miscellaneous:

- Document everything you sell. It will make following years more successful
- Be vocal about what you’re selling
- Have several signs with prices that are in an easy-to-view location

## Band Grams

Submitted By: Epsilon Kappa (Meghan Truax – tbs.ek.treasurer@gmail.com)

### Summary of Fundraiser:

Band members purchase band grams at practices the week before a game, write a message to another band member, and return them to chapter. Chapter then divides them by section, attaches a piece of candy to each one, and deliver them on game day. The band grams have a different design depending on what team we are playing that week.

### Supplies Needed:

- Paper
- Copier
- Tape
- Candy

### Instructions:

- Have someone design the front of the grams for each game. Make copies before practice. Include a place for them to write the name and section of the recipient.
- Announce at practice that band grams will be sold immediately following practice as well as when completed band grams will be due
- Sell the band grams for 50 cents apiece
- Collect returned band grams, attach candy and separate by section
- Distribute on game day via volunteers or by giving the grams for each section to their section leader

### Suggestions/Tips/Miscellaneous:

- Band Gram designs can be recycled year to year or be remade every time. They can be seasonal as well as specific to each game. Usually a half sheet of paper folded in half works best size wise

- Including your chapter's email on the back is a great way to get your information out to band members
- You can set up shifts for which volunteers stay behind at practice to sell or collect and have a taping party once they are collected to get lots of people involved

## Band Videos

Submitted by: Theta Eta (Rachel Transtrum – rtranstrum@gmail.com)

### Summary of Fundraiser:

At our annual band banquet that the marching band hosts at the end of the season, we sell a DVD with the slide show presented during the banquet. We also sell a DVD with a recording of all of the shows we marched that season.

### Supplies needed:

- DVDs, cases and labels
- Recordings of marching band shows
- Plenty of pictures of marching band and all its members!

### Instructions:

- Collect as many pictures and clips about anything related to that marching band season as possible. Also, have someone record each show the band marches
- Have a member of your chapter (we rely on our historian) put together two separate DVDs:
  - One with all of the pictures and clips from marching band members
  - One with all of the recordings of shows
- Have members get together to burn DVDs and put together cases (we usually take all of the orders at or before the banquet and make what has been ordered)
- This past year, we charged \$15 for both portions. We charged \$10 for the slide show and \$8 for the marching shows and pregame when they were bought separately

## **Suggestions/Tips/Miscellaneous:**

- Collect pictures and work on the video throughout the season to avoid late nights of editing and burning



## **Barnes and Noble**

Submitted By: Omicron (Lauren Hennig – omicrontreas@tbsigma.org)

### **Summary of Fundraiser:**

Chapter gets a percentage of all the profits made on a weekend. Online sales count as well as long as they say they are donating to your cause.

### **Supplies Needed:**

- Facebook event page

### **Instructions:**

- Reserve at least eight weeks in advance
  - <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/bookfairs/index.asp?PID=23700>

### **Suggestions/Tips/Miscellaneous:**

- Promote, promote, promote!

## Car Wash

Submitted By: Theta Eta (Rachel Transtrum – rtranstrum@gmail.com)

### Summary of Fundraiser:

We do a car wash each year, usually during band camp before the weather turns cold.

### Supplies needed:

- Towels, sponges and rags
- Soap
- Hoses and buckets

### Instructions:

- Find a date and time that will work for the chapter and a location willing to host a car wash
- Make sure there is some way to get water to the cars you are washing
- Have volunteers bring supplies and make sure there will be enough volunteers there to help with the car wash
- Advertise! (Flyers, signs, and announcements all work)

### Suggestions/Tips/Miscellaneous:

- We advertise our car wash as free, but emphasized that donations were appreciated and accepted.

## Car Wash/Profit Share

Submitted by: Omega (Marisa Lunde – marisalunde@gmail.com)

### Summary of Fundraiser:

Set up a car wash at a local restaurant and ask if they will host a profit share (percentage night) during the event.

### Supplies Needed:

- Hose and spray nozzle
- Car soap
- Windex for the windows (many people have asked us to clean the inside of their windows too)
- Rags/towels (we cut up some old t-shirts that we were never going to sell)
- Sponges
- Buckets
- Signs

### Instructions:

- Show up 15-20 minutes before go time to set up

### Suggestions/Tips/Miscellaneous:

- We have had the best luck with this combination at Boston Market
- Works best with at least 6 people (2 to hold signs, 4 to wash cars)
- Create a sign-up sheet with one hour shifts so volunteers don't feel overwhelmed or overworked
- Many restaurants will need you to fill out paperwork- do this beforehand;
- If it's hot, bring a cooler with ice for drinks
- Try hosting after a huge rivalry game and come up with a catchy slogan ("We'll wash the SCUM DEVIL off your car!" ... I'm sorry, ASU)
- Create a Facebook event to get the word out

- Ask for donations rather than setting a price – many people are willing to donate more than you'd think!

## Coffee House

Submitted By: Omega (Marisa Lunde – marisalunde@gmail.com)

### Summary of Fundraiser:

Invite local musicians, poets, artists, etc. to a Coffee House where they can perform for college students. Attendees get coffee, donuts, and a show.

### Supplies Needed:

- Location for event (try churches/local communities with a large group area)
- Chairs
- Coffee
- Baked goods
- Sound system
- Optional: drum set for performers

### Instructions:

- At least 1 month before, have your location set
- Start finding artists that would like to display their talent (offer them free or cheapened admission)
- Start selling tickets for the event
- 1 hour before, set up the chairs facing a stage and the “coffee shop” at a table with a “barista”
- Have fun!

### Suggestions/Tips/Miscellaneous:

- Buy bulk coffee and make it yourself
- See if a local bakery will donate baked goods (donut shops/bakeries might sell you cheap baked goods if you buy them at the end of their work day)
- Get the word out there!

## College Apparel

Submitted By: Theta Delta (Megan Poppe – [megan.poppe@email.wsu.edu](mailto:megan.poppe@email.wsu.edu))

### Summary of Fundraiser:

Design and sell any combination of sweatshirts (hoodies/crewnecks), t-shirts, long-sleeve shirts, sweatpants, and beanies to your school's Marching Band.

### Supplies Needed:

- Creative Design
- Screen Printing Company
- Flyers
- Order Forms (unless using online ordering)

### Instructions:

- Decide what kind of apparel you want to sell, then come up with a design(s) to fit the needs of your item.
- Next, you will have to contact a screen printing shop and figure out how much they will cost to print per item. You can always use an online ordering service, but be careful when entering in the individual orders, as well as keeping track of who gets what.
- Decide how much you are going to sell them for, determinant upon your projected profit versus demand.
- Distribute Flyers with the design printed on them.
- Make sure to make a deadline, we usually to 2-3 weeks upon announcement.
- Either make order and do a mass order, or we also used a print shop that allowed students just to order their personal order on their own.
- Distribute.
- Make money!

## **Suggestions/Tips/Miscellaneous:**

- If using a school logo, mascot, or any trademarked symbol, make sure the printing company you use has the rights to print it, you do not want to have to deal with the legalities of the fallout. You can avoid having to deal with this if you come up with your own adaptation of said symbols.
- Sweatshirts are our biggest sellers, so we begin selling near the end of September when it begins getting cold to increase our demand.
- You want to make the greatest profit; however, be careful when pricing the apparel as to not price too high to where no one will want to fork over the money.
- Definitely try to reach out to parents as well. Most parents want to support their kids in wearing apparel specified to their marching band.

## Family Weekend

Submitted By: Omega (Marisa Lunde – marisalunde@gmail.com)

### Summary of Fundraiser:

During the university's Family Weekend each fall, the marching band hosts a morning rehearsal with parents. At this event, we sell marching band merchandise to parents ("Family Weekend" themed t-shirts, car decals, key chains, Christmas ornaments, stadium seat cushions, etc.). After the morning rehearsal, we invite parents to eat a catered meal (they must purchase a ticket ahead of time) with their student(s).

### Supplies Needed:

- Marching band merchandise:
  - Stadium Seat Cushions
  - Car Decals
  - "Family Weekend" T-Shirts
  - Key Chains
  - Christmas Ornaments
  - Water Bottles
  - Calendars
- Catered lunch (ordered from a local sub shop, or make-your-own sandwich with ingredients from Costco)
- Tables and chairs for fundraising table

### Instructions:

- Set up fundraising table
- Make sure everything is set up before "opening"
- About 30 minutes to 1 hour before lunch, move fundraising table to lunch area and start setting up lunch.



## **Suggestions/Tips/Miscellaneous:**

- Keep lists of who paid for lunch and the number of people they paid for
- Organize your cash box the night before
- Create a packing list for the day of so nothing is forgotten
- Have “non-marchers” help out with running lunch and the fundraising table

## Fireworks

Submitted By: Theta Eta (Rachel Transtrum – rtranstrum@gmail.com)

### Summary of Fundraiser:

Our chapter ran one of the fireworks stands for one of the big firework companies around the Fourth of July.

### Supplies Needed:

- Depends on the firework stand

### Instructions:

- Whoever owns the stand/fireworks will tell you exactly what they need you to do.  
Just make sure to follow their directions

### Suggestions/Tips/Miscellaneous:

- Make sure that good records/receipts are kept and that money remains locked up
- Deposit money daily, if possible

## Flower Sales

Submitted By: Omega (Marisa Lunde – marisalunde@gmail.com)

### Summary of Fundraiser:

Set up a flower stand outside a concert and sell to spectators for their loved ones. We did this at a High School Honor Band concert - parents loved the idea.

### Supplies Needed:

- Flowers
- Buckets with water
- Scissors
- Optional: ribbon

### Instructions:

- 90 minutes before the concert: set up the table and ensure the flowers are in good condition.
- Be ready to go about 60 minutes before the concert - parents get there **early**.

### Suggestions/Tips/Miscellaneous:

- Roses sold really well. We bought a couple multicolored bundles and allowed the parents to pick and choose. We sold an individual rose for \$2, and a bundle of 3 roses for \$5
- 1-2 people are more than enough to run the entire fundraiser

## Garage Sale

Submitted By: Omega (Marisa Lunde – marisalunde@gmail.com)

### Summary of Fundraiser:

It's the end of the school year and everyone is moving. Pool together all the "junk" you have no use for and sell it at a garage sale!

### Supplies Needed:

- Tables for display
- "Junk"
- Donations from alumni/band
- Check local thrift shops/craigslist for items that are free but in good condition

### Instructions:

- A week before (and every day leading up to) put a post on craigslist about the event
- Set up about 30-60 minutes before
- Barter, barter, barter
- After the event, take everything that was not sold to a local charity/Goodwill

### Suggestions/Tips/Miscellaneous:

- 3-4 people are needed to make it run smoothly
- Mornings, mornings, mornings! Aim for a time that starts early in the morning and ends before noon. This is the typical yard sale time
- Have people with cars drop stuff off the night before (if possible)

## Lincoln 4 Lincoln

Submitted by: Alpha Chi (Erin Hodges – emh267@nau.edu)

### Summary of Fundraiser:

Send a penny and get money back!

### Supplies Needed:

- Envelopes
- Stamps
- Letters
- Pennies

### Instructions:

- Write up a letter explaining to people you know (alumni, family, friends) talking about what the organization is about, events that our chapter has done (focusing on service), and maybe some goals. At the end we explain that we would like to explain exchange our enclosed Lincoln (a penny) for one of theirs (a \$5).
- Enclose a second envelope in each one you send out, addressed to your organization, this is so your donator doesn't have to pay to give your chapter money.
- Have chapter supply names and help stuff and address envelopes.

### Suggestions/Tips/Miscellaneous:

- Send letters to everyone you know!
- Have a stuffing/addressing party to make it less tedious
- Little to no work at all!

## **Rent-a-Puppy**

Submitted by: Alpha Chi (Erin Hodges – emh267@nau.edu)

### **Summary of Fundraiser:**

“Borrow” puppies from your local humane society and charge students to play with them.

### **Supplies Needed:**

- Sign Up List
- Cash Box
- Volunteers (2 to 3)
- Location off campus (due to insurance issues)

### **Instructions:**

- Get in contact with your local humane society
- Require that people must stay in sight of volunteers
- Keep the event around 4 hours for the safety of the animals
- Charge at half hour intervals and switch renters after that interval

### **Suggestions/Tips/Miscellaneous:**

- We charged \$5 for students to play with them for 30 minutes, this raised \$200 in 4 hours for almost no work
- Donate money back!

## **Restaurant Profit Shares**

Submitted By: Epsilon Kappa (Meghan Truax – tbs.ek.treasurer@gmail.com)

### **Summary of Fundraiser:**

Working with a restaurant, a percentage of the profits made by a restaurant for people with a certain flier goes toward chapter.

### **Supplies Needed:**

- Meet with restaurant managers to see if there is an interest

### **Instructions:**

- Contact restaurants to determine which ones near you are willing to have profit shares.
- Pick a date when people are available and willing to pass out fliers

### **Suggestions/Tips/Miscellaneous:**

- Having something like this during band camp or when you know a lot of band members will be attending a certain restaurant is a great way to make money

## Spring Fling

Submitted By: Omega (Marisa Lunde – marisalunde@gmail.com)

### Summary of Fundraiser:

This is the largest student-run carnival in the nation. We usually sell cheese-steak and cheesecake, but there are various other food items, games, and rides that are offered.

### Supplies Needed:

- Vendor to receive food from
- Cook surfaces
- Tables
- Chairs
- Cleaning supplies

### Instructions:

- Several months before, finalize all food and ask if the chef can train you to cook that meal
- Find out how much food will cost and adjust prices accordingly;
- Day of: prepare work area and food
- Keep area clean while working
- Do a “deep clean” at the end of the day

### Suggestions/Tips/Miscellaneous:

- Pair up with a lot of other on-campus clubs before attempting to run an event like this
- Set up shifts and keep tabs on who is supposed to be working when. Have penalties for missing a shift.
- Be super careful. This event generally brings in several hundred per organization, but can backfire if not run correctly.



## TV Tapings

Submitted By: Epsilon Kappa (Meghan Truax – tbs.ek.treasurer@gmail.com)

### Summary of Fundraiser:

Sisters attend the taping of a TV show and get money for our chapter.

### Supplies Needed:

- Cars
- Contacts with Audiences Unlimited and On Camera Audiences

### Instructions:

- Pick a taping that works for a lot of chapter, the more who go the more money you make
- Book the taping with the company
- Attend the taping

### Suggestions/Tips/Miscellaneous:

- This fundraiser is kind of specific to LA, but if you are around this area it's a great resource. Our chapter has attended tapings of things like Let's Make a Deal and Nickelodeon's Wendell and Vinnie.

## Water Sales

Submitted By: Alpha Chi (Erin Hodges – emh267@nau.edu)

### Summary of Fundraiser:

Alpha Chi has strong ties to the local symphony orchestra. We sell water before the concert and during intermission. This costs us approximately \$6, and we usually make at least \$50 per event.

### Supplies Needed:

- Cases of Water (2)
- Cooler
- Cash Box
- Ice

### Instructions:

- Pick a relevant location (example: School of Music)
- Make signs with prices
- Wear letters or get dressed up and wear pins

### Suggestions/Tips/Miscellaneous:

- Have one or two people work the event

## Free Fundraisers

### Percentage of Sales:

Websites like [www.igive.com](http://www.igive.com) will give you a percentage of any sales they make when someone makes a purchase from a link off your site.

### Investigate School Funds:

Many treasurers often are not aware of the resources available to them through their own school. Contact Student Activities or your Associated Student leaders to see what free money may be available for your non-profit organization.

### Selling Used Items:

Collect and sell used CD's, books, cell phones, etc. to stores that will purchase them; get your chapter members to clean out their houses and have a garage sale.

### Waiting For Dollars:

Find a local restaurant that is willing to host a waiting for dollars event. You will set up a time frame and your chapter will take over waiting tables and bussing dirty dishes, in exchange for tips for your group.

### Performing Ensembles:

If you have a group of musicians who are already in or willing to create a performing ensemble, paid gigs are possible for campus and/or community events. This might be extra successful during the holiday season (caroling, quartets, etc.).

### Working Local Events:

Ask about working at a local fair, convention, event, on-campus, etc. where they would be willing to pay a responsible group as opposed to employing individuals. You can even see if local high schools are looking for help at events.

**Gift Raffle:**

Ask for donations from local companies and family members, and raffle off the items at a concert, reception, or banquet.

**Penny Wars:**

Throughout band camp, at certain rehearsals, or at campus events, hold a penny war where the winning group gets a percentage of the earnings, or a prize.

**Recycle Cans:**

Something your Chapter can do throughout the year. Collect cans throughout the year and redeem them every so often.

**Holiday-grams/Air-grams:**

Check first with your school's residential life office to see if they will allow you to sell Holiday-grams. Create/print out cards, take orders at the front desk, and deliver them with candy/flowers/etc during a certain time period. If your school puts on a band day type event, set up a booth and sell air-grams that will be announced before each band performs.

**Dorm Move-In:**

While this may be something you might want to do for free with incoming band members that have to move in early, you can also have a crew ready at the dorms on campus, and charge a fee to help them get all their belongings into their new home.

**Campus Events:**

Talk to various departments on your campus and see if they have any projects that they would be willing to pay your chapter to do. A lot of times, especially for short-term events, they will post ads looking for people willing to work, when they would rather hire a responsible, reliable group. Examples are working election booths, delivering phone books, setting up/tearing down events, etc.

**Seasonal Events:**

Working at Christmas tree lots, selling poinsettias, selling pie gift certificates, and gift-wrapping are among a few ideas that could bring in money for your chapter during the holidays.

**Donations:**

Ask local business for tax-deductible donations. In return, you can place their ad in programs for concerts or band day. Also, visit your alumni with some Halloween trick-or-treating; the chapter can have fun dressing up and the treat will be a donation to the chapter.

## Lower Cost Fundraisers

### **Flamingo Flocking:**

The basic idea is to plant a flock of plastic flamingoes in someone's yard and leave a note saying they have been chosen by someone for a good cause. Then explain that they will have to pay a certain fee to have the flamingoes relocated to the next location of their choice. The event can continue as long as you'd like.

### **We Bake For You:**

Instead of holding a bake sale, create fliers and place them in dorms, businesses, on campus etc. Create a menu of 5-10 items that members in your chapter are willing to bake. When someone places an order, you bake the goods and deliver to them or as a gift to someone else. Time this with holidays or big local events.

### **Un-Bake Sale:**

Another alternative to the typical bake sale, this fundraiser provides the ingredients and the recipe instead of finished goods. Fill decorated mason jars with all the non-perishable ingredients for customers to make their own homemade cookies and attach the recipe to the outside.

### **Honor Band:**

If your school or a school district in your community doesn't have something like this, it may be a worthwhile project to take on. Hold auditions for either junior high school and/or high school students. Ask university and high school band directors to run rehearsals and possibly guest conduct the concert. Reserve a hall somewhere in the community, and sell tickets at the door. This type of event will probably take 2-3 months from start to finish.

**Dance-Off:**

Participation for this can be as small as the people in the marching band or as large as an entire school. Reserve a large room to hold the competition in, ask popular teachers or other school figures to be judges, and charge a small fee for entry into the competition. Then dance the night away, with several rounds for elimination. Make sure to highly publicize!

**Battle of the Bands:**

Host a battle of the bands at your school and charge for entry. Make sure you have a large room or outdoor venue to use and ask your band director if you can use sound equipment. You can also sell snacks and/or drinks (non-alcoholic) for additional profits.

## Higher Cost Fundraisers

### **“A thons”:**

Hold an event such as a bowl a thon, where members get pledges from family and friends, and collect money after the event is held.

### **Food Sales:**

On campus, at rehearsals, or at local events, set up a table and sell baked goods/snacks/drinks/etc. Your best bet is to buy these items in bulk to make the most profit.

### **Band Breakfasts/Lunches:**

Ask for donations for cups, plates, utensils, and even food for a meal during band camp or before or after a concert band rehearsal. Purchase any other necessary items, and sell plates to band members.

### **Section Pictures:**

Recruit Chapter photographers and organize a date when sections can meet and take group and individual pictures. Take orders and sell the pictures for profit. This can even be taken a step further by creating a calendar and selling them during family week and throughout the season.

### **Band Dances/ BBQs:**

These events can not only earn you a profit, but will also add a social event to the calendar and will show the band you are “working” for them. Organized a theme dinner/dance/game night/tournament/karaoke, etc. and charge to get in.