



Foundation Month – Ideas for Lodge Events

Virtual Bingo – Have a personality in your community or lodge host a virtual bingo game. Bingo boards can be purchased and picked up/mailed, or use an online site for bingo boards. Cost of admission is a donation to the Foundation and you can gather fun prizes from members or the community!

Virtual Trivia – Norwegian themed or lodge themed trivia, members can make a contribution to the Foundation in order to participate. Contact the Sons of Norway Foundation for trivia ideas.

Make Your Own *Insert Nordic Food Here* Kits – Whether its lefse, krumkake or any other Nordic delicacy, with a donation to the Foundation your members will get a kit with a recipe and the ingredients needed to make the food. Make it extra fun and engaging with a virtual cooking class!

125th Anniversary Celebration – When holding 125th anniversary celebrations, include a pitch for the Foundation. Encourage people to donate \$125 in honor of Sons of Norway’s 125th anniversary. Column in newsletter – “we support the Sons of Norway Foundation” – give \$125 and your name gets printed as a supporter.

Host a Live Music Performance (can be done virtually!) – Invite a local musician or even someone not local that would be of interest to your lodge who could perform live outdoors or virtually. Make a donation to the Foundation the cost of admission.

Silent Auction (can be done virtually!) — The silent auction gathers donations received from members or local businesses and they are auctioned off by using bidding sheets. It takes a team to gather, inventory and label the goods as well as print up bidding sheets. The committee will also have to gather the sheets and announce the highest bidders and collect the money onsite. This could be incorporated with a new member dinner, Foundation Month, Julebord, Tyvende dag jul (St. Knud’s Day), St. Hans Fest, etc.

Golf Outing – Perfect for social distancing! Compete against your fellow lodge members and raise money for the Foundation. Participants must give a donation to the Foundation to play. Make it interesting with additional donations for the twosome or foursome you think will win!

“Happy Bucks” – When something good has happened in your life, share your story at the lodge and put a donation in the jar for the Foundation. (the opposite of the punishment or “swear” jar).

Make a Pledge toward my Kid/Grandkid - Many members have kids or grandkids that run in races, kayak, canoes, mountain climb, repel, row, and more. Individuals could ask for pledges toward the child competing in the race and donate to the Foundation in honor of their child or grandchild.

Birthday Celebration — Ask friends on Facebook to donate to the Foundation online to celebrate a special birthday. In Norway they are always celebrating the “0” birthdays — 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100. The Foundation can help with any setup questions.

Treasure/Scavenger Hunt — If you can get a larger prize donated or pool resources for a cash prize, then you could create a fun treasure hunt. Each team of two would pay to enter and get their first clue. Teams then follow a trail of clues that take them all over the city until they make it to the end and claim the grand prize.

Movie Night — If you have a large room and a big screen, having a movie night can be a fun way to get your supporters together and raise some money for the Foundation. Charge an admission price – maybe \$15 (more or less) – and then sell snacks like popcorn, candy and beverages. You could also incorporate a raffle or silent auction to generate additional revenue. Easy to social distance if a large space is available!

Community Garage Sale — Garage sales are lots of fun and everyone always has stuff lying around their house that they don't want. Ask them to donate the good items, then have a large garage sale (inside maybe if it's cold). Sell hotdogs and other treats at the sale to generate additional revenue. All proceeds, minus expenses to the Foundation.

Matching Fund Challenge — Get one member to challenge other members to donate "x" amount of dollars to the Foundation and he or she will match the amount up to a certain amount. For example, a person says I will donate \$200, \$500, \$1000 to the Sons of Norway Foundation if by the end of the meeting or event you have donated out of your own pocket.

Selling customized T-shirts — This is a unique fundraising idea for a lodge and also a great marketing strategy for your the local lodge or district lodge. Customize the shirt to showcase the lodge or event. Design the T-shirt to show off the brand identity, or to commemorate an event! People will buy the shirts to remember the lodge or event. Does require an initial investment. A portion of the proceeds would go back to the Foundation.

Host a 5K Race — Host a 5K race the whole family can enjoy. Set up a 5K race in your community. 5K races are an easy way to locally fundraise. Require a registration fee for runners. Other than that, all runners need to participate is a good pair of shoes! Partner with local companies to sponsor the 5K event. Businesses may gain traction by featuring their name on race-day T-shirts or by providing swag to runners.

Raffle Night — They enable lodges to support local businesses while fundraising in a unique way! Contact local businesses who may want to donate something to the raffle. This is a great opportunity for local restaurants and shops to spread their brand name to the community. Plus it helps the lodge secure affordable prizes for the event! Encourage the community to buy raffle tickets.

Chili Cook off — Invite members to show off their best chili recipe! People pride themselves on fantastic chili recipes. Challenge members to a cook off to find out who has the best chili. To determine the winners, volunteer judges. Require a registration fee for those who wish to enter into the competition and/or charge an entrance fee for people to taste. Don't forget to provide a prize to the winner. In place of chili, you may add any type of food cook off.

Board Game Tournament — Bring out board games and hold a unique tournament fundraising competition. If you're not a board game person, ask volunteers to bring in their favorite board game. Whether it's Monopoly, Battleship or Checkers, people will have a blast reminiscing over their old favorites! Have people play against one another throughout the night so the overall board game champion may be determined to receive a prize. Require a small fee to register for the game night.

Gala — If you're looking for an event for generous donors, host a classic gala! Galas allow people with similar passions and interests to get together over good food and a common cause. Combine this gala with your silent

auction or raffle to spark some friendly fundraising competition in your attendees. Try a themed gala to turn this classic idea into a unique fundraising affair for everyone. It can be a classic costume ball, a Halloween costume party, or even themed to a popular movie series.

Potluck Dinner — Potluck dinners are a super easy way to bring together people for a night of great food and conversation. Invite people to bring their favorite dish to the dinner. People love showing off family recipes to their community. Charge a donation fee at the door.

Used Book Sale — Hosting a used book sale is a simple and easy fundraising idea that anyone can do. Work with local businesses or churches to serve as collection depots. or at your own meeting hall. Then sell the books at a used book sale. You could limit the books donated to those that are Nordic-inspired, whether, travel, novels, coffee table books, history, etc. — or not.

Walkathons/Skiathons/Bikeathons/Row-a-thons — “Athons” are effective, whether you have five people or 500. People who are participating in the event gather, collect and submit pledges to the folks in charge. Always be willing to accept donations on-site and be sure to try to involve the whole community.

Bowl-a-Thons — And speaking of “Athons,” this is another event in which the whole family can participate. Participants register to play in the bowling tournament. Then they call on their friends and family to make donations to the fundraising event in their name. Before the event, work with the local bowling alley to hold your challenge, some will donate lanes, some will ask for rent to guarantee the lanes. Participant bowlers play against one another in a good-natured competition. Don’t forget a trophy for the winner. Don’t feel shy about accepting gifts from spectators.

Paint and Sip — At a paint and sip fundraising event, your group works with an “art studio” at either its studio or at your meeting hall to teach attendees how to paint a painting. Not only that, but you provide wine for those 21+. Tickets can be sold to cover expenses and raise money.

Donate Your Hobby — Everyone has some type of talent, so why not use it to raise money? Participants donate a service to the campaign, such as piano lessons, making a kransekake or several dozen Norwegian cookies, carpentry, cooking, knitting, crocheting, pottery making, writing, genealogy research, computer skills, etc. People make monetary gifts in order to have access to the talented givers. On a first-come-first-served basis, donors get to pick the service they wish to have. You may also run the event as a silent auction with the service going to the highest bidder.

Battle of the Bands — Music is a surefire way to create a memorable fundraising event. Hosting a battle of the local bands takes some organization, but can be fun and profitable. Reach out to local schools, colleges and universities and music schools and ask if there are any up-and-coming performers that may wish to participate. It allows young people to express their creative sides as well as get them involved in giving back through your lodge to the Foundation. You can have the battle inside or out and charge for tickets. At the event, you can also fundraise by selling concessions or holding a raffle. Voting on which act is the best is usually done through applause. Don’t forget to give the winning act some sort of prize. Best to get the media there to give the winning act well-deserved publicity.

Guessing Game — For a quick, cheap fundraising idea, set up a guessing game. You can do it at a lodge event and/or get local merchants to participate, too. Fill a jar with jelly beans, peanuts, M&Ms, peas, buttons, or whatever and encourage people to guess how many are in the jar. When individuals make their guess, they’ll

pay a small fee to enter the contest. Be sure to have a great prize for the winner! People may guess more than once, if they wish — but, of course, they must pay the fee each time.

Straw Draws — Straw Draws is so simple. Participants enter the drawing by purchasing a ticket to the straw draw, which is the donation to the Foundation. On the bottom of the straw, print a number in indelible ink and it will correspond to a gift that has been donated. They can be large or small. They can be donated by members or local merchants — anything from a free soda to a gift card to a Norwegian dinner prepared by a member. The cost to the lodge is pretty much just a box of straws.

Front Row Seats — Whether it's a great concert coming into town or the latest play, there's bound to be a popular event of some kind that's tough to get into. This makes tickets to these shows a hot commodity, and an even hotter fundraising incentive. So, for your fundraiser, consider offering front row tickets to a popular show as a prize. To make this kind of incentive work, you'll need to have team members ready to purchase the sought-after tickets as soon as they go online. Then, once you have the tickets ready, start promoting the fundraiser through the lodge and the general community. You can do the fund raising as a raffle or an auction bid. If a raffle, make sure that the ticket price is high enough so that you not only cover the cost of the show tickets, but have plenty left for a Foundation donation.

Old-fashioned Ice Cream Social — Everybody loves ice cream! Ice cream socials work well because they take little planning but yield great fundraising results. All you need to do is purchase a variety of flavors and toppings to get started. (For an added fundraising boost, call on a local ice cream shop to sponsor the event and provide free ice cream supplies.) Invite lodge members, their families and friends, to the event and charge a moderate ticket price for admittance.