

Fundraising Ideas

Whether you are fundraising for gear for your GSAs or raising money to attend the Governor's Conference on LGBTQ youth or Pride Camp, there are **TONS** of ways to engage the community in supporting you!

Mail letters to your friends and family letting them know what you are raising money for. Also, send letters to businesses in your community (such as banks), as they often give funds at the end of the year toward service projects. Be respectful, creative, and clear in your ask, and enclose a stamped, addressed return envelope for more responses!

Ask local affirming churches if you can add an announcement during the service, discussing what you are raising money for and what the funds will benefit. You can also ask to speak to local clubs and affinity groups like Kiwanis or Rotary.

Hold a weekly bake sale or monthly car wash. You can also sell bottles of water, candy bars, or soda at local community events. Talk with your local grocery store and ask to set up a booth.

Don't forget the THANK YOUs!

Thanking your supporters is an important part of raising funds. Send handwritten thank you notes to each individual supporter, outlining what the funds will go towards and how it will benefit you or your group!



Need help? Have questions? Connect with us!

www.iowasafeschools.org
gsas@iowasafeschools.org



Sample Donation Request Letter: Governor's Conference on LGBTQ Youth

Dear _____,

I am writing to tell you about an exciting opportunity that has been presented to my student group at **(NAME OF SCHOOL)**. Students in my GSA (Gay/Straight Alliance) have been given the chance to attend the annual Governor's Conference on LGBTQ Youth. This conference is hosted each year by Iowa Safe Schools, the state's only LGBTQ youth serving organization, and is the largest conference of it's kind in the nation. With over 2,000 attendees last year, the Governor's Conference on LGBTQ Youth is celebrating it's 15th year of creating safe and supportive spaces for LGBTQ youth and those who support them. Workshops throughout the day teach students practical skills and tools to be engaged, qualified members of their community, and is often the only opportunity throughout the year to interact with other LGBTQ and Allied youth.

The conference takes place at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines. Some of the important takeaways we hope to gain by attending the conference are:

- **(Highlight three takeaways you hope to gain)**
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If you would like to know more about Iowa Safe Schools or the Governor's Conference on LGBTQ Youth, you can visit their website at www.iowasafeschools.org. The cost of this trip is \$35 per student. **(Discuss the different fundraising you have done or plan to do to raise funds, and why you need help with the cost of registration or transportation.)**

I am writing to ask if you **(OR BUSINESS NAME)** would be willing to sponsor our trip for \$ **(DOLLAR AMOUNT)**. Any amount would be greatly appreciated and would help me/us reach my/our goals.

If you would like to sponsor me/my GSA, you can:

- Pay by Check: Make checks payable to **(WHO THE CHECK SHOULD GO TO)**. Please write **Governor's Conference on LGBTQ Youth** in the memo line. I can stop by and pick up a check, or you can mail it to me/my GSA at: **(LIST ADDRESS)**

I appreciate your support in this exciting opportunity. If you are not able to sponsor me at this time, I certainly understand and appreciate your continued support of LGBTQ youth in the community. If you have questions, you can call me at **(PHONE NUMBER)**. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

YOUR NAME/YOUR GSAs NAME



Sample Donation Request Letter: Pride Camp

Dear _____,

I am writing to tell you about an exciting opportunity that has been presented to me. I have been given the chance to attend Pride Camp, the only LGBTQ youth summer camp in the Midwest. This camp is hosted each year by Iowa Safe Schools, the state's only LGBTQ youth serving organization, and is the largest summer camp of it's kind in the nation. For four nights and five days, campers will have the opportunity to learn, grow, and connect with other LGBTQ and Allied youth in a safe and supportive camp environment. Activities in previous years have included team building, creative expression, and even STEM and business projects!

Pride Camp takes place in Des Moines, IA from July 13-17, 2020. Some of the important takeaways I hope to gain by attending Pride Camp are:

- **(Highlight three takeaways you hope to gain)**

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If you would like to know more about Iowa Safe Schools or Pride Camp, you can visit their website at www.iowasafeschools.org. The cost of this trip is \$600 per student, which includes room and board, meals, all activities, and Pride Camp giveaways. **(Discuss the different fundraising you have done or plan to do to raise funds, and why you need help with the cost of registration or transportation.)**

I am writing to ask if you **(OR BUSINESS NAME)** would be willing to help me attend Pride Camp by sponsoring my trip for \$ **(DOLLAR AMOUNT)**. Any amount would be greatly appreciated and would help me/us reach my/our goals.

If you would like to sponsor me, you can:

- Pay by Check: Make checks payable to **(WHO THE CHECK SHOULD GO TO)**. Please write **Pride Camp 2020** in the memo line. I can stop by and pick up a check, or you can mail it to me at: **(LIST ADDRESS)**

I appreciate your support in this exciting opportunity. If you are not able to sponsor me at this time, I certainly understand and appreciate your continued support of LGBTQ youth in the community. If you have questions, you can call me at **(PHONE NUMBER)**. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

YOUR NAME

