

## **FUND RAISING**

We believe that God wants to help you raise the funds to be part of the YA Summer Internship. So, here are some steps to help and follow:

1. Pray and ask God to help you make a good plan. Tell Him you want to honor Him in the way you handle His money.
2. Write down how much you'll need and when. A reminder: your non-refundable \$25 Application fee is due with Application. Include spending money and any other expenses such as travel to OKC.
3. Now, make a plan and set goals that account for every cent you'll need.

Example: Needed: \$800

\$300 from support letters

\$50 from bake sale

\$150 from my job

\$100 from my church

\$100 from car wash

\$50 from garage sale

\$50 from additional odd jobs

4. Work your plan, involve other people, and be faithful to your commitments!

## **SUPPORT LETTERS**

Since asking friends and family for support is one of the most effective fundraisers, we wanted to give some special attention to it. Any time you ask people to contribute to you because you're doing something for God you should take it very seriously. Do it in a way that is responsible spiritually, ethically, and legally. Here are some things that you'll need to know:

1. When people contribute to your Internship it is a tax-deductible donation.
2. They must write their checks to Youth America and NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON IT ANYWHERE.
3. They must give the check to YOU, then you can send it to us with any other checks you've collected.

\* We will issue them a tax receipt for their donation.

## **HERE ARE SOME KEY COMPONENTS OF AN EFFECTIVELY WRITTEN SUPPORT LETTER:**

1. Tell them about the opportunity and your passion.
2. Tell them about the organization.
3. Explain what will be happening and how you'll be a part of it.
4. Explain what it costs and what that amount pays for.
5. Ask them to consider contributing towards that goal and give them a deadline.
6. Explain exactly how to contribute so they can receive tax credit for their donation.
7. Let them know they can contact you if they need more information.
8. Thank them and sign off.

## **HERE ARE SOME TIPS FOR HANDLING YOUR LETTER:**

1. Have at least 3 people proof read it before you copy it.
2. TYPE IT and check the grammar and spelling.
3. Sign in a different colored ink than the text of the letter. (We recommend blue.)
4. Write a personal note at the bottom such as "Hi Aunt Molly! It was good seeing you at the family reunion. How are Tom & Freeda? Take care!"
5. Tell them when the money is due, but give yourself a week buffer. That means it is due to YOU at an earlier date than it is due to Youth America.
6. Get on this immediately! It will ALWAYS take more time and energy than you think.
7. Make sure that you send thank you letters to each contributor.

**SUPPORT LETTER (SAMPLE):**

Dear Mr. Smith,

I've been given an exciting opportunity this summer to intern with an organization called Youth America. It is an organization in Oklahoma City that hosts over 3,000 students from all over the nation in youth camps. I will be serving as a Summer Intern, which means I'll be one of the key leaders facilitating the camps. The goal of each camp is to help young people and leaders grow in their relationship with God and develop a vision for their lives and His Kingdom.

The Internship lasts 6 weeks and will cost \$500. I need the full amount by May 1st. This covers all my expenses including food, lodging, training materials, classes, and activities. During the Internship I will also be a part of discipleship, which will help develop me as a stronger leader and enhance my current skills & callings.

Would you consider helping me achieve this goal? Any financial contribution you can make will be 100% tax deductible, and greatly appreciated. You can make your check to Youth America, *do not put my name on it anywhere*, and send it to:

John Student

Your Address

Your Town, 12345

If you would like more information or have any questions feel free to contact me at (123) 456-7890.

Thank you for your consideration and God bless you.

Sincerely,

Your Name

**NOW THAT YOU'VE PLANNED YOUR LETTER, HERE ARE SOME OTHER FUNDRAISING IDEAS THAT YOU MAY WISH TO UTILIZE:**

1. Garage Sale (get people to donate items)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ - thon (bike, rock, jump rope, etc.)
3. Selling candy
4. Get a job
5. Talk to your pastor or church board
6. Benefit concert
7. Sell seasonal items (i.e. Easter eggs)
8. Host a party, charge admission
9. Creative car wash (pledges for each car washed)
10. Change jugs at convenience stores
11. Corporate support
12. Balloon animals
13. Benefit dinners