# Third-Party Policies and Procedures

A presentation and template of suggested terms of agreement for third-party fundraising events for nonprofit organizations



# Third-Party Policies and Procedures

# Contents

1. Expla	anations	3
2. Exan	nples of opening paragraphs	5
3. Quot	tations from existing document	ts6
4. Thir	d-party event applications	10
5. Ackn	nowledgements	19

#### 1. Explanations

Bikini-clad beauties held signs hawking a third-party fundraising car wash event for a women's crisis center. A group threw a casino night with liquor sales to benefit an addictions center. Inappropriate? Then you understand the need for a list of policies and procedures that apply to any individual, business or organization that wants to hold a benefit for your nonprofit organization.

You have the right to detail what is and is not appropriate, what you will and will not accept, what you do and do not expect. You must protect your organization's name, reputation and standing in the community and ensure that third parties abide by all fundraising regulations. Use your third-party fundraising event policy to spell things out as precisely as possible.

For example, a hospice very clearly requests, "We ask that you do not organize a third-party fundraiser that includes lotteries, gambling, fortune telling and raffles/drawings without first discussing it with a member of (our) Fundraising Team." A YWCA states emphatically, "Events should complement the mission and image of YWCA. Companies that conflict with the mission or values of YWCA may not be sponsors. We discourage sponsorship by tobacco and firearms companies or other companies with products that do not support the health and well-being of children."

Nearly every agreement lists these four items:

- 1. (The organization) may receive funds from other similar promotions. Our acceptance of your application creates no exclusive rights for you.
- 2. We have made a commitment to our staff and donors that we do not sell or provide others with our donor and staff mailing lists.
- 3. (The foundation) must review and approve all promotional materials including, but not limited to, advertising, letters, brochures, flyers and press releases prior to production or distribution.
- 4. (The camp) may direct the organizer to cancel the event if any of the above guidelines are not followed.

You need to maintain absolute control over the use of your logo, service marks, branding statements and slogans. Stipulate that your logo cannot be altered in any way. You may also dictate where it may be placed and how large it should be in relation to other materials on posters, flyers and so on.

Don't forget the financial aspects. Most prevalent points include:

- 1. (This organization) does not provide financial support to third-party fundraising.
- 2. If event expenses are greater than the money raised, you are responsible for paying those expenses. (The hospital) will not provide funding or reimbursement of expenses.
- 3. You may not keep any portion of the proceeds as profit or compensation for organizing the event.
- 4. You must obtain your own liability insurance to cover the event.
- 5. Because (the foundation) is not sponsoring your event/campaign, we cannot have event/campaign revenues and expenses flow through our books. Only the net amount (final net proceeds from event and campaign) should be processed by (the foundation).
- 6. You cannot set up a temporary bank account in (our organization's) name.

You should request a complete accounting of all funds collected and expenses related to the event. State the latest date (usually 30 days after the event) for you to receive the proceeds.

Some of this may seem a bit harsh, but your organization's name, reputation and place in the community are at stake. By all means offer assistance, but make sure your best interests are protected all along the way. And remember: If anything goes against or counter to your agreement, you reserve the right to cancel the event...but only if that's included in the agreement.

Start with a warm thank you for the third-party's interest in supporting your organization. You might offer a brief history of your organization, or how much you depend on the community for financial support. Policies and Procedures are dry and demanding, so a kind expression of gratitude is in order.

In the Policies and Procedures section, be as specific as possible and cover as much as your legal team, your lawyer on retainer or the lawyer on your board thinks is necessary. As far as possible, try to keep it in simple English. "You may not" and "Under no circumstances" go a long way. For most organizations, three or four pages in legible type should be sufficient, although one online "terms and agreements" runs 26 pages.

Conclude by thanking them once again for considering your organization worthy of their time and efforts. As a community benefit organization, some of your budget must come from the community you serve. Several agreements try to soften the demands by using the last paragraph to assure the prospective third-party fundraiser that the agreed-to document serves and protects the fundraiser as much as it does you.

The next several pages of this document contain terms that are general enough that you might consider their use and specific enough that there is no question what is being stated, requested or demanded. There are also additional items you might consider using.

This document concludes with four examples of applications and a post-event form and evaluation.

#### Two notes:

- 1. The first paragraph in our Policies and Procedures should be the first paragraph in all policies and procedures. Some organizations have long names. With this explanation of pronouns, you can avoid constantly writing (and them constantly reading) your name.
- 2. In Part 3, within several items you will see \*[...]. This contains information that will vary from one organization to another. \*[...] gives you several options. Also, two items are entirely within the starred brackets and are for specific types of organizations. Even if you aren't an arts organization or animal shelter, they will give you an idea of what to ask for. Any use of the pronoun "you" within the starred brackets refers to you, the current reader, not the third-party reader.

The suggestions and examples in this guide are of a general nature and are not intended as legal advice. Please consult a legal professional with specialized expertise in these areas for guidance specific to your organization.

#### 2. Examples of opening paragraphs

Thank you for your interest in planning an event to benefit (ABC Charitable Organization)! Throughout its 130-year history, (ABC Charitable Organization) has played a key role in the capital region. This document provides you with tips and guidelines to ensure your event is carried out appropriately and safely. Each application will be carefully reviewed and evaluated for viability and appropriateness with (ABC Charitable Organization)'s goals and objectives.

Individuals, businesses or groups can sponsor an event to raise funds for (ABC Charitable Organization). This kind of activity is called a "third-party" event. (ABC Charitable Organization) has a set of guidelines that we ask all individuals and organizations to follow when fundraising on our behalf.

Thank you for your interest in hosting an event or promotion to benefit (ABC Charitable Organization). We are deeply grateful for the generous support of our friends in the community who share our commitment to (our mission and goals). We are pleased to be the beneficiary of financial support as a result of Third-Party Special Events or projects by generous individuals, groups and organizations.

Thank you for considering (ABC Charitable Organization) as a beneficiary of your fundraising activities. We appreciate your efforts to help us support the mission of (ABC Charitable Organization) to provide (what you provide to the community).

(ABC Charitable Organization) is fortunate for the great generosity and support of people and organizations throughout our region. Often, people spend their own time, money and effort organizing a fundraiser to benefit (our work). These fundraisers vary in type and size. If you are interested in organizing and hosting your own event to benefit (ABC Charitable Organization), please review our policies and procedures, then check out our tips and downloads to help make your event a success. We'd like to know about it! Please fill out the short form with a detailed description of your fundraising event.

The following was found immediately after the first paragraph on one organization's cover sheet. It's an example of stating what you can do to help the third-party before you state your policies and procedures.

#### How we can help:

(ABC Charitable Organization)'s ability to offer services for third-party fundraising events is limited by staff size and internal obligations. We *are* able to provide the following:

- A letter of authorization to validate the authenticity of the fundraising event.
- Informational brochures or fact sheets about our programs and services.
- Attendance at the event to receive proceeds by a member of our staff, based on availability.
- Use of our logo and name upon review and approval of event and materials.
- Written tax receipts to donors who make checks payable to (ABC Charitable Organization).

#### 3. Quotations from existing documents

These are direct quotes from existing policies and procedures in agreements with third-party event organizers. \*[...] indicates material that needs your attention and/or may not apply to all organizations.

- 1. For purposes of these Policies and Procedures, "you" means the organization, group or individual sponsoring or holding the event. (ABC), "we," "us" and "our" mean (ABC Charitable Organization).
- --. Events should complement the mission and image of (ABC Charitable Organization). Companies that conflict with our mission or values may not be sponsors. \*["We discourage sponsorship by tobacco and firearms companies or other companies with products that do not support the health and well-being of children" is an example of how specific you can be.]
- --. You must obtain your own liability insurance to cover the event. (ABC Charitable Organization) will not insure your event and requires that you obtain all insurance, including premises liability and worker's compensation. (ABC Charitable Organization) will not assume any legal or financial liability associated with your event, nor will we indemnify you or any party involved in your event for any damage, expense or other costs arising or in any manner related to your event. (ABC Charitable Organization) and all related entities are not liable for any injuries sustained by event volunteers or participants related to your event and cannot assume any type of liability for your event.
- --. You are responsible for obtaining all permits and licenses, especially those for raffles or games of chance. Because state and local governments control all charitable gaming activities, if your event includes a bingo, raffle, 50/50 draw and/or casino type games and activities, you must acquire the proper permit/license from your state or local government office and abide by all rules and regulations pertaining to such gaming activity. (ABC Charitable Organization) will not take out liquor licenses for third-party events. \*[If your organization does not wish to use funds generated from games of chance or liquor sales, here is where you stipulate that.]
- --. You agree that you will comply with all state and/or municipal charitable solicitations statutes and/or ordinances which may apply to your event.
- --. Events must comply with all federal, state and local laws governing charitable fundraising and gift reporting. All tax-receipting issues must be agreed upon and documented before our approval is given. (ABC Charitable Organization) may issue tax receipts only for checks made out to "(ABC Charitable Organization)." If your donors send their contributions directly to us, you must inform us of the value of any goods or services the donor received in return for the contribution. (ABC Charitable Organization) will issue tax substantiation receipts for in-kind donations or event sponsorship agreements if you provide complete information for all applicable donors.
- --. Your organization cannot state or imply that it is an agent, subsidiary or partner, nor that it holds any other business relationship with (ABC Charitable Organization).
- --. You agree that you will not use our tax exemption in any manner or as part of the promotion of your event, nor will you represent to the public that you enjoy any tax exempt rights or privileges as a result of your role in the event (unless you have separate tax exempt status), nor will you state that any

portion of the purchase price for any goods or services at the event is tax deductible for charitable purposes.

- --. (ABC Charitable Organization) must be notified in writing if there are any significant changes to the event once it has been approved. If circumstances warrant, (ABC Charitable Organization) may at any time direct you to cancel the event. You must agree to cancel the event, if so directed, and further agree to release (ABC Charitable Organization) and its officers, directors, employees and volunteers from any and all liability in connection with any such action.
- --. We reserve the right to observe your event.
- --. (ABC Charitable Organization) may receive funds from other similar promotions. Our acceptance of your application creates no exclusive rights for you.
- --. If (ABC Charitable Organization) is not the sole beneficiary of your event, you must tell us the other recipients and the percentage that will be given to each.
- --. In order to provide your donors with important information concerning their contribution, we ask that all promotional materials clearly state the percentage of proceeds (from gross or net proceeds) and/or the portion of the ticket price that will benefit (ABC Charitable Organization).
- --. Because (ABC Charitable Organization) is not sponsoring your event, we cannot have event revenues and expenses flow through our organization's books. Only the net amount (final net proceeds from the event) should be processed by (ABC Charitable Organization). Proceeds should be sent to (ABC Charitable Organization) no later than \*[your preference...usually 14 to 30 days] following the event and should be mailed to (ABC Charitable Organization's address).
- --. You may not set up a temporary bank account in (ABC Charitable Organization)'s name.
- --. You may not keep any portion of the proceeds as profit or compensation for organizing the event.
- --. You should limit expenses to \*[state your preference...30% to 50%] of the total raised by the event. If event expenses are greater than the money raised, you are responsible for paying those expenses. (ABC Charitable Organization) will not provide funding or reimbursement of expenses.
- --. (ABC Charitable Organization) should receive a complete accounting of all funds collected and expenses related to the event within \*[your preference...usually 2 to 4 weeks] following the event. Because of our responsibility as the recipient of community assets, we reserve the right to inspect all event financial records if a question is raised about the event's proceeds.
- --. If any type of promotion person or company is engaged to coordinate the benefit, we must be notified immediately. Compensation to promoters shall not be based on commission or percentage of monies raised. (ABC Charitable Organization) will decline to participate in any fundraising event using paid solicitors to request donations or sell products by phone. Pennsylvania Charitable Solicitation Act requires that any individual or entity (not paid staff) contracted to do fundraising must be registered with the Bureau of Charitable Organizations. \*[See <a href="http://www.dos.state.pa.us">http://www.dos.state.pa.us</a>, click on "Charities," then "Charitable Solicitation Act" for the definition of "professional fundraising counsel" and "professional fundraising solicitor" to determine registration requirements.]

- --. (ABC Charitable Organization) reserves the right to refuse any contribution which is given with any restrictions as to its use or with any accompanying covenants or requirements which bind (ABC Charitable Organization) as to the future use of such gift.
- --. In order to better coordinate fundraising activities, we ask that you provide us with a list of targeted sponsors for your event before they are approached. Please remember that many individuals and businesses already support us and may not wish to make additional donations.
- --. Events that compete or conflict with an already established or scheduled event to benefit (ABC Charitable Organization) will not be approved.
- --. \*[If ABC Charitable Organization is an arts organization and is asked to perform or to set up a display, here is where you stipulate performance or display requirements. For example, a musical organization needs so much space; a dance company must have a specific area; an acting company will supply props and costumes but must have adequate lights and, perhaps, sound amplification provided by the event sponsor; adequate hanging space and lighting must be provided for artwork, etc. You know what it takes to represent your organization well; insist on it in writing.]
- --. \*[A humane society specifically states, "Due to our exclusive partnership with Purina, we are not able to accept food donations." This is good for a third-party organizer to know.]
- --. Applications must be completed and submitted to (ABC Charitable Organization) no less than \*[your preferred amount of time...30 days, 60 days, three months] prior to the proposed fundraising event.
- --. Approval for the event is specific to dates and times listed on your event application. If you would like to repeat the event, you must submit a new application.
- --. You may not use the (ABC Charitable Organization) name or logo or otherwise indicate to the public that an event is being for the benefit of (ABC Charitable Organization) without the prior express written consent of an authorized representative of (ABC Charitable Organization). You may not make public announcements or promote the event until you receive written approval of your third-party fundraiser application from us.
- --. You may not use the (ABC Charitable Organization) logo without our written approval. Our official logo should be appropriately used for your event and may not be altered in any way. Any use of the logo must adhere to established graphic standards, which we will provide.
- --. Publicity for your event may not imply that the event is sponsored or co-sponsored by (ABC Charitable Organization) or that we are involved as anything but the beneficiary. We may be identified only as (ABC Charitable Organization). For example, you may not call an event "The (ABC Charitable Organization) Walk-a-Thon." Your event should be promoted as "The Walk-a-Thon to benefit (ABC Charitable Organization)."
- --. (ABC Charitable Organization) must review and approve in writing all promotional materials including, but not limited to, advertising, letters, brochures, flyers and press releases prior to production or distribution. Proposed materials should be submitted to the \*[title of your community events manager] via email at \_\_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_ or by mail to (ABC Charitable Organization's address).

- --. We have made a commitment to our staff and donors that we do not sell or provide others with our donor and staff mailing lists.
- --. (ABC Charitable Organization) is happy to provide brochures, pamphlets and other informational materials promoting and explaining our goals and accomplishments. Please let us know your needs in this area as soon as possible, so we can try to have sufficient quantities for your event.

It is quite possible that you'll need to create a paragraph or two to cover your specific needs, just as it is likely that you won't need to include all of the above. They were taken from several documents from several different community benefit organizations, so feel free to use what you need, invent what is necessary for your purposes and don't use the rest.

# 4. Third-party event applications

The next pages show four applications and one post-event wrap-up and evaluation sheet.

## **Event Application, Example 1:**

#### (ABC Charitable Organization) Third-Party Fundraising Event Proposal Form

Office use only			
Date submitted:			
Forwarded to:			
Part A Individual/Organization/Co	mpany Name:		
Address:			
City:		State:	Zip:
Telephone:	Ext.:	: Fax:	
Website:			
Contact Information of the	Lead Person (when differe	ent from above):	
Name:			
Address:			
City:		State:	Zip:
Telephone:	Ext.:	Email:	
Part B Briefly describe the event ( date, location, number of a benefit, if applicable), etc.	•		nclude the name of the event, on's) specific program to
-	-	•	be donated, as well as potential rganization). (Attach a second
Part D Agreement: I acknowledge Party Fundraisers and agree event.		-	icies and Procedures for Third- and holding this fundraising
Print your name:			_ Date:
Your signature:			

## **Event Application, Example 2:**

#### (ABC Charitable Organization) Third-Party Proposal Form

1. Name of	Person/Group sponsoring fundraiser:			
2. Address:				
3. Contact p	person:			
4. Phone: D	Day/ Evening/	/ Emai	l:	
5. Alternate	contact person:			
Phone: D	Day/ Evening/	/ Emai	l:	
6. Please giv	ve a brief description of the event:			
7. Date and	time of event:			
	of event:			
9. Describe	how the event will be publicized:			
10. Estimate	ed number of attendees/participants:			
11. How wil	Il the revenue be generated?			
	<u> </u>			
	attach a proposed budget for your event			
13. Please d and/or volur	describe what assistance, if any, you are nteers:		BC Charitable Organization)	staff
•	ercentage of your estimated net proceed n)?% If less than 100%, what othe		· ·	s?
Date	 Signature of Third-Party Fur	ndraiser		

#### **Event Application, Example 2, Page 2:**

(ABC Charitable Organization) Use Only				
		raiser:		_
Date application rece	ived:			_
Approved	Declined	Date		_
Comments:				
Signature:				_
Amount received: \$_		Date		_
Comments:				
Signature:				

# **Event Application, Example 3:**

#### (ABC Charitable Organization) Third-Party Event Application

1. Event Organizer Information:					
Name of contact:	Today's date:				
Mailing address: City:	State:	Zip:			
Telephone: / / FAX: / /	Email:	2.p			
Telephone:/ FAX:/ Email: Website: Us your organization a nonprofit 501(c)(3)? Yes No					
Is your organization a nonprofit 501(c)(3)? Yes No _					
2. Event Information:					
Name of Event:	Projected atte	ndance:			
Is the event: Open to the public By invitation	s the event: Open to the public By invitation Ticket price (if applicable) \$				
Is this, or will this be, an annual event benefitting (ABC Cha					
Yes No To be determined					
Description of event:					
Location name:					
Address: City:	State:	Zip			
Event Date: Start time	e: End time:				
Are there other beneficiaries of this event? Yes No					
If yes, name of other organizations:					
Percentage to be given to (ABC Charitable Organization): _	<u>%</u>				
Describe how funds will be raised:					
Will you have the following at your event?: (Mark all that	apply)				
Raffle Auction In-kind donations (toys, crafts,					
Does your event have sponsors? (corporate, media, etc.):					
Do you plan to solicit donations to purchase in-kind items		ABC Charitable			
Organization)? Yes No					
Does the event require a permit?* Yes No					
Does the event require insurance?* Yes No					
*If you answered yes to either/both of these, please includ	e a copy of the document(s) t	wo weeks prior			
to the event.	,,,,	,			
Plan for publicity: (All materials must be reviewed and app	proved by (ABC Charitable Or	ganization))			
Press releases to be sent to:	• •	J:=#.3.3.1/J			
Flyers to be distributed to:					

### **Event Application, Example 3, Page 2:** Public service announcement to be distributed to: Other: Will you have an event website? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ Web address: \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Financial Overview: (see budget section for specifics) Budget estimate: (Organization/Individual not liable for amounts listed) Food/Beverage Venue Entertainment Permit/Insurance fees Printing Supplies Other ANTICIPATED EXPENSES ANTICIPATED GROSS REVENUE S ANTICIPATED NET REVENUE \$ (Amount submitted to (ABC Charitable Organization)) I plan to submit the funds by: mail \_\_\_\_\_ personal delivery \_\_\_\_ other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_ Please indicate the date the funds can be expected by (ABC Charitable Organization): (Funds must be received with [your decision...usually 14 to 30] days of the event.) Program you would like your funds to be designated to: \_\_\_\_\_ 4. I specifically agree to all the terms and conditions contained in the Policies and Procedures for Third-Party Event Organizers attached to and made a part of this application. I understand that my event is not considered an approved event until written approval of my application is received from (ABC Charitable Organization). No amendment, modification or waiver of any of the terms and conditions contained in this document and the Policies and Procedures for Third-Party Event Organizers shall be valid unless in writing. At no time will (ABC Charitable Organization), or any representative of (ABC Charitable Organization), be responsible for the cost, planning or staffing of my event, nor will they be liable for personal injuries or damages to property which may occur during my event. I agree to indemnify and hold harmless (ABC Charitable Organization) and their employees, agents and representatives, from any and every claim, demand, suit and payment related to or caused by my event. Event Organizer's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_

or mail to: (Person)

(ABC Charitable Organization)

(Street or P. O. Box) (City, state, zip)

# **Event Application, Example 4, Electronic:**

#### (ABC Charitable Organization)

Tell us about your event:	
*Required fields	
*First Name:	
*Last Name:	
*Name of Organization, if applicable:	
*Phone:/ *Email:	
Please add me to the snail mail list: Yes No	
Please add me to the email list: Yes No	
*Type of event:	
Event Date, if known:/	
Times for event:	
Start:AM/PM	
End:AM/PM	
Location(s):	
*Target audience:	
Number of expected participants:	
*How will the event be promoted?	

# **Event Application, Example 4, Electronic, Page 2:** \*Will there be corporate sponsorship? If yes, please name: \*How will (ABC Charitable Organization) benefit from your event? \*How will your group benefit from the event? Where should we mail brochures and other supplies? \*What are the expectations of (ABC Charitable Organization)'s involvement: \*What is the projected income from this event? \$\_\_\_\_\_ \*What portion of this income would come to (ABC Charitable Organization)? \_\_\_\_\_% \*Who will handle the income from this event? \*How and when will the portion benefiting (ABC Charitable Organization) be distributed to us? \_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Is there anything else you would like to share about your proposed event? **SUBMIT**

# **Sample Post-Event Report and Evaluation**

Name of Event Organizer:	Date:
Name of Event:	Number of participants:
Please indicate all revenues and expe  REVENUE  Ticket sale \$  Sponsorship \$  Raffle \$  Auction \$  Direct donation \$  (to (ABC Charitable Organization))  Other \$  Other \$  TOTAL REVENUE \$  NET PROCEEDS (total revenue minus	nses that apply to your fundraiser  EXPENSES:  Advertising/Printing \$  Food/Beverage \$  Entertainment \$  Awards/Prizes \$  Venue \$  Security \$  Other \$  Other \$  TOTAL EXPENSES \$  total expenses) \$
	ritable Organization):
Final proceeds to (ABC Charitable Org	s who sponsored your fundraiser (use Sponsor Tracking
(ABC Charitable Organization) Feedba	uck:
	ess for your event easy to understand? Yes No
2. Do you feel (ABC Charitable Organi Yes No	zation) assisted you with all of the questions you may have had?
3. Did your event meet your expecta- If no, please explain why:	
If so, where was your event mentioned	
If possible, include a copy. We would	love to see it!
5. Do you plan to organize this event If no, please explain why:	again? Yes No

Please include and/or send any pictures that showcase your event.

#### 5. Acknowledgements

Deep appreciation is expressed to the following organizations for permission to quote from their third-party event agreements, policies and procedure statements and event application forms:

Animal Humane Society, Minneapolis – St. Paul, MN
Camp Quality USA, Heartland, Council Bluffs, IA
Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation, Pittsburgh, PA
Halifax Health – Hospice of Volusia/Flagler, Palm Coast, FL
Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health, Palo Alto, CA
Ottawa School of Art, Ottawa, ON
Tidewell Hospice, Sarasota, FL
YWCA York, York, PA

Special thanks go to Tish Mogan, Standards for Excellence® Officer, Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations, Harrisburg, PA for realizing that an available template is in order, and to the Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations, Joseph Geiger, Executive Director, for seeing the necessity of an accessible third-party fundraising events policies and procedures template for all community benefit organizations.

-- David Walker, Project Coordinator 2011