

# Elementary School



*I wish to be  
a cowgirl*

Kionna, 6  
Wilm's tumor

Creativity is the name of the game. Follow one of these fundraising ideas or create your own. The sky's the limit!

## Volunteer Hours: 1-5

### Penny War

Each grade level competes against each other to collect the most pennies. Students are encouraged to put nickels, dimes and quarters in another grade's container to get the corresponding number of pennies subtracted from their total count! Have prizes for the winning group!

### Spirit Chain

Students create a paper chain in school colors with links sold for \$1 each. Decorate the hallways, gym, library, etc. Create a spirit of competition by having class or grade work on their own chains - longest one wins a prize (or bragging rights). At the end of the competition, link all the chains to show combined school effort.

### "Superstars for Wishes" - Sell Wish Stars

Ask your local Make-A-Wish® chapter for paper stars that can be sold to students for

\$1 to \$5. Students then put their name on the star, and display it on a wall in your school to show support for Make-A-Wish. Paper stars can also be sold to members of the community at school sporting events, band concerts, etc.

### Candy Guessing Game

Fill a large jar with candy. Have students pay to guess how many pieces are in the jar. The winner keeps the candy!

### Dress Down Day or Hat Day

Students and teachers with a dress code in their school can contribute a small fee to wear casual clothes or a hat to school for the day.

## Volunteer Hours: 5-10

### Read-a-thon

A twist on the traditional "a-thon" events, read-a-thons involve participants receiving pledge donations based on the number of

books or pages they read. Again, students can receive prizes based on how much money they raise.

### **Make-A-Wish Money Week**

Compete between grades or homerooms to see who can make the most money. On Monday students donate pennies, Tuesday nickels, Wednesday dimes, Thursday quarters and on Friday students donate \$1. Check with your local bank or grocery store to see if they would be willing to count the change.

### **Bake Sale**

Students bring in a baked good from home. The bake sale can be held in the school cafeteria, at school extracurricular events or even a local shopping center (with permission, of course).

### **Movie Night in the Auditorium**

Sell tickets to movie night for \$5 each. Take it to the next level by selling candy and popcorn with the proceeds to benefit Make-A-Wish.

### **Ice Cream Social**

You Scream, I Scream, We All Scream for Ice Cream! Host an ice cream social for your group's next fundraiser. Sell the ice cream plus an additional amount for each topping option.

### **Volunteer Hours: 10+**

#### **Student/Teacher Sports Event**

Home football and basketball games attract a lot of school fans. At halftime, students and teachers can compete in games or other sporting events. For example, students and teachers can purchase the opportunity to compete in a half court shooting competition and win a prize if they make it.

#### **A-thons**

Reserve a fitting location such as your school track gym or cafeteria to hold a jump rope-a-thon, dance-a-thon, walk-a-thon, or jog-a-thon. All participants then get their friends and family members to make pledges for each lap they have to run, each minute they jump or dance, etc. Students can receive prizes based on how much money they raise.

### **School Art Show**

Students create artwork and then charge admission to their art show. Pick a few pieces to auction to raise more money.

### **Book Sale/exchange**

Ask students to bring in old books/books they've already read and have a school wide book sale to benefit Make-A-Wish.

### **Spell Out Success**

Academic fundraisers are a great opportunity to raise money and get kids excited to learn. Teachers at the school choose a list of 10 to 20 words for each grade level. Family and friends pledge a certain amount for each word the student spells correctly on a test, taken two weeks later. Teachers announce the total number of words spelled correctly, and the students celebrate with a party.

### **Dog Wash**

This twist on the traditional car wash fundraiser offers a low-cost dog wash for the furry, four-footed members of the community! You can even sell refreshments for the dog lovers to enjoy while they wait for their dogs to be bathed and include some treats or biscuits for the dogs. Ask group members to donate old towels to dry the dogs off after their baths.

#### ***For more information or to get started, contact:***

Ashley White  
Gift Officer – Community Programs  
Make-A-Wish Illinois  
312.602.9419 direct | 800.978.9474 main  
[awhite@illinois.wish.org](mailto:awhite@illinois.wish.org)  
illinois.wish.org | @wishillinois

