

Guide to soliciting donations

2025 Guide to Soliciting Donations

Our annual fundraiser, *GISSV's 25th Anniversary Gala & Auction - 25 in 2025*, is the not-to-be-missed event of the year including dinner, wine, dancing, silent & live auctions. After the gala, we will have our online auction with an array of fantastic items to bid on. This fundraiser has raised a substantial amount of money for our school in the past and with your help, we hope to meet our goal of \$250,000 this year!

Each family is asked to help solicit or donate 2 items for the auctions – but we will happily accept more! Both small and large items are welcome, as well as items that can be bundled as part of a larger package.

All items should be received by February 16, 2025.

Auction Items that do well

- Restaurant gift certificates
- Getaways to hotels and private homes
- Tickets to sports events such as Giants, Warriors, or 49ers games
- Cultural events: opera, ballet, symphony, theater, concerts, lectures
- Spa/pampering packages: massages, facials, mani-pedi, hair stylists, etc.
- Children's items: books, games, music
- Unusual experiences: sailing on the Bay, Maserati for a day, amusement park tickets, behind-the-scenes tour at an unusual business (Pixar, Medical lab), etc.
- Special food and drink-related experiences: artisan dinners, special samplings/tastings, special tours, etc.
- Wine and specialty food items like coffee and salumi

Solicitation Tips & Information

- Consider your contacts - a personal connection makes soliciting much easier. Send out our materials through social media and face-to-face at businesses you frequent.
- Provide businesses with information about GISSV, your connection to the school and what it means to you. We are the only official German School Abroad in the Bay Area and West Coast offering the German International Abitur diploma program.
- The 25th Anniversary Gala & Auction can be a great marketing opportunity. Items will have exposure to more than 380 families of GISSV, as well as friends and supporters of our school.
- GISSV is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and most donations are tax deductible. You can accept a donation on the spot and provide a receipt. A formal receipt will be provided following the event.

Count-Me-Ins

"Count-me-in" items - donations of group events or experiences are a great way for us to raise more money to build the GISSV community. Perhaps you or a group of GISSV parents could host a cocktail party or a dinner at your house—it can be casual like margaritas and Mexican food or a more intimate

dinner party. Someone you know might be able to provide a tour, a class, or a unique event or experience. Adult-only and kid events have both been successful in the past, some examples include - a Top Chef competition, a photography class, a firehouse tour, a cocktail party, a children's art night.

Forms & Donation links

This includes:

1. [Donor Letter](#) – general information about GISSV and the 25th Anniversary Gala & Auction.
2. [Factsheet](#) – a quick bullet point version of the gala information for businesses.
3. [Donation Receipt](#) – this form should be completed by the donor for their own tax records, and a formal receipt will be sent following the event.

How to Submit Donations

Please complete an [online donation form](#) for each item you solicit or donate. All items should be dropped off at the Mountain View/Easy Street or San Francisco/Diamond St offices. You will be contacted by the 25th Anniversary Gala & Auction committee if more information is needed, and donors will receive a donation thank you letter for tax purposes after the auction.

Sponsorships & Ads

The solicitation team is working hard to secure donations of food, wine, and corporate sponsorships for the gala. If you or any of your contacts can assist with any sponsorship items, please [contact us](#).

We also have advertising opportunities in our gala catalog – it's a great way to support the gala and reach our parent community. Please contact us at the email below for details.

Questions?

Please contact the 25th Anniversary Gala & Auction Committee team at gala@gissv.org. We are happy to help with donation ideas & suggestions