

Upper Room Fundraising, Scholarships, and Using Those Funds

Purpose

The purpose of the Escalon CRC's high school fundraisers and scholarships is to offer students the opportunity to raise funds, which offset the cost of activities, retreats, and camps that the youth group participates in throughout the year.

Who Can Participate

Any student of the ECRC's high school youth group may participate in the fundraisers and scholarships. They, and/or their families, do not need to be members of ECRC. However, students must regularly attend either our weekly youth group meetings or Sunday morning services.

Fundraisers

Currently, we have two fundraisers per year—the Tri-Tip Dinner Fundraiser and the sale of 99 Farmers' Coffee. We are open to hearing about different fundraising ideas; however, keep in mind that they can be time-consuming and challenging to do.

The Tri-Tip Dinner

How it Works

The amount of funds raised is based on the number of meals sold and donations received. Students typically begin selling meal tickets in September. **Students receive a \$5 commission for each ticket sold.** On a Saturday, typically in October or November, students spend the day preparing the meal and giving it to those who purchased it. This is an all-day event, and **it is how the students raise most of their funds.** In years past students have made more than \$50 an hour if they worked that Saturday.

To be clear, students have two opportunities to raise funds through the Tip-Tip Dinner. 1st, by only selling meal tickets and receiving a "\$5 commission" per ticket. 2nd, by selling tickets **and working on the day** that we prepare and pass out the meals. **It is the 2nd option that will raise the most funds for the student.**

How do students sign up to help

Students who regularly attend our weekly youth group meetings will receive many opportunities to take and sell tickets and to sign up to help on the day we prepare and pass out the meals. For those who do not regularly attend youth group, we will advertise these opportunities during our regular Sunday services before the event. Still, you will need to contact Pastor Lucas to sign up.

99 Farmers' Coffee

How it Works

99 Farmers is a ministry that ECRC supports (for more information, go to 99farmers.org). During the Fall and Winter, students will have the opportunity to sell coffee and receive a portion of the profits. **The coffee is sold at \$25/can, and the student will receive \$8 per sale.** After the student collects and submits the orders, it typically takes two weeks to receive the coffee. At which point the Youth Pastor will get the coffee, and then it will be the students' responsibility to distribute it to the people who purchased it.

Receiving & Using Funds

Calculating Students Funds

After the Tri-Tip fundraiser is over, it will take time to calculate the total funds raised and each student's contribution. Once those funds are calculated, parents will receive an email with the total amount of funds their student has in their account. At any time, you may request from the Youth Pastor (Lucas Geiger) or the Finance & Operations Director (Joe Veldstra) the amount of funds that your student has in their account.

Scholarships

Most years, students will receive a scholarship from the ECRC Youth Group that may be used for youth group retreats & camps. Scholarships are not guaranteed year to year. The amount usually ranges around \$150. This scholarship will be reflected in the total amount that parents will receive by email once the Tri-Tip Fundraiser is complete and the total is calculated.

In addition, **your student has the opportunity to earn a \$50 scholarship** by reading the whole New Testament and writing a report on a book, a person, a particular doctrine, or another topic of interest from the New Testament. If interested, please contact Pastor Lucas for more information.

Using Your Student's Funds:

To use the funds in your student's account, we ask that you pay the cost of the activity, retreat, or camp up front and then request a reimbursement from our Finance & Operations Director, Joe Veldstra, by email joe@escaloncrc.org.

For example, if your student goes to Hi-Camp and it costs \$735, you would pay the whole amount to Hi-Camp, then request a reimbursement and submit a receipt.

If paying the full cost of something up front would cause undue financial hardship for your family, please talk to the Youth Pastor or the Finance & Operations Director, and we can pay the amount your student has in their account directly to the camp, event, or retreat. If your student's funds do not cover the total, you will need to cover the balance.

Things to note:

- You do not have to use the full amount in your student's account. However, most parents use as much as possible.
- Although our Tri-Tip dinner often raises a lot of money, do not count on it covering the full cost of Hi-Camp.

Other Policies:

- The funds your students raise are unique to them. This means that we do not transfer funds from one student or sibling to another, and once your student graduates from high school, their unused funds are put into the Youth Group's general fund; they are not passed down to other siblings or friends. We do this (1) to protect students who do not have siblings and could end up bearing the work of the tri-tip dinner by themselves if students who have older siblings choose not to work after receiving their siblings' funds. And (2) to teach each student the importance of volunteering and hard work within the body of Christ.
- Please keep in mind that we want to see each student able to participate. We **NEVER** want money to be the obstacle that prevents a student from coming on a retreat or going to camp. If you need help financially, please feel free to talk to the Youth Pastor.