Upper Room Fundraising, Scholarships, and Using Those Funds

Purpose

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

Who Can Participate

Any student may participate in the fundraisers and scholarships if they either:

- attend ECRC's high schol youth group at least 50% of our Wednesday evening meetings, or
- have parents/guardians who are members of ECRC.

Fundraisers

We currently hold one fundraisers per year: the Tri-Tip Dinner Fundraiser. We are open to other fundraising ideas, but please keep in mind that they can be time-consuming and challenging. In the past, we have also offered students the option of selling 99 Farmers coffee, though the supply can be limited.

The Tri-Tip Dinner

How it Works

The funds raised depend on the number of meals sold and the donations received. Students typically begin selling meal tickets in September and receive a $5 commission for each ticket sold. On a Saturday in October or November, students spend the day preparing the meal and delivering it to those who purchased tickets. This is often an all-day event.

Students therefore have two ways to raise funds through the Tri-Tip Dinner:

1. **Selling tickets only.** The student earns a $5 commission per ticket. Students who only sell tickets should not expect to raise a large amount.
2. **Selling tickets and working on the Saturday of the dinner**. This is where students can raise the greatest amount of funds. In years past, students who worked that day have earned more than $50 an hour.

How do students sign up to help

Students who regularly attend our weekly youth group meetings will have many opportunities to pick up and sell tickets and to sign up to help on the day we prepare and distribute the meals. For those who do not regularly attend, we will advertise these opportunities during our Sunday services before the event. You will still need to contact Pastor Lucas to sign up.

99 Farmers' Coffee

How it Works

99 Farmers is a ministry that ECRC supports (learn more at 99farmers.org). When available in the fall and winter, students may sell coffee and receive a portion of the profits. The coffee sells for $25 per can, and the student receives $8 per sale. After the student collects and submits the orders, the coffee typically takes about two weeks to arrive. The Youth Pastor will pick up the coffee, and it is then the student's responsibility to deliver it to the people who purchased it. This is not a fundraiser we facilitate each year - if you are interested, you must contact Pastor Lucas for more details.

Receiving & Using Funds

Calculating Students Funds

After the Tri-Tip fundraiser, 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 in their student's account. At any time, you may ask the Youth Pastor (Lucas Geiger) or the Finance & Operations Director (Joe Veldstra) for your student's current balance.

Scholarships

Most years, students (who meet the same requirements stated above under *"Who Can Participate")* will receive a scholarship from the ECRC Youth Group that may be used for youth group retreats & camps. Scholarships are not guaranteed from year to year and usually amount to around $150. The scholarship is included in the total that parents receive by email once the Tri-Tip Dinner is complete and the totals are calculated.

Using Your Student's Funds:

To use the funds in your student's account, please pay the full cost of the activity, retreat, or camp up front, then email a reimbursement request and receipt to our Finance & Operations Director, Joe Veldstra, at joe@escaloncrc.org. For example, if your student attends Hi-Camp and it costs $735, you would pay Hi-Camp the full amount, then submit your receipt for reimbursement.

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.

Please note:

- You do not have to use the full amount in your student's account, though most parents use as much as possible.
- Although the Tri-Tip Dinner often raises a significant amount, please do not count on it to cover the full cost of Hi-Camp.

Other Policies:

The funds each student raises belong to that student alone. We do not transfer funds between students or siblings, and when a student graduates from high school, any unused funds go into the Youth Group's general fund rather than being passed to siblings or friends. We do this for two reasons:

1. To protect students without siblings, who could otherwise end up carrying the work of the Tri-Tip Dinner alone if students with older siblings chose not to work after inheriting their siblings' funds.
2. To teach each student the importance of volunteering and working hard within the body of Christ.

Finally, we want every student to be able to participate. We NEVER want money to be the obstacle that keeps a student from going on a retreat or to camp. If your family needs financial help, please feel free to talk to the Youth Pastor.