

Host a Fundraiser for Elephants!

Our most frequently asked question is: “What can I do to help elephants?” You can channel your enthusiasm and love for elephants into direct action for elephant conservation by hosting a fundraiser for the International Elephant Foundation. Whether it’s your scouting troop, your classroom, or your entire school you can make a difference in the survival of elephants. There are many possibilities, but here are some to get you started:

[Recycling Drive](#)

[Walk-A-Thon Safari](#)

[Car Wash](#)

[Garage Sale](#)

Feel free to use any of the materials linked above to put on your event, or come up with your own ideas—a dance recital to “Stomp out EEHV”, a school play performance of The Jungle Book, a talent show, or use your imagination to come up with the perfect fundraising event for your community. Remember, whatever you do, let us know! We’d love to include your event in the calendar section of our website and possibly feature you in our eNewsletter! Contact: sconley@elephantconservation.org

Remember, you can raise funds to support a specific conservation project or support IEF in general and say you’ve supported projects around the world!

Prizes:

We are excited to announce that schools, clubs, or organizations that register their event with IEF are eligible for some ele-fantastic rewards!

Raise \$500—Receive framed certificate to proudly display in your class!

Raise \$1000— Receive framed certificate to proudly display in your class and a Skype video call with a conservationist!

Raise \$ 2500—Receive a framed certificate, Skype video call with a conservationist and an official IEF plaque for your school/club/organization!

Raise \$ 5000—Receive a framed certificate, Skype video call with a conservationist, official IEF plaque, and a painting done by a real elephant artist!

Recycling Drive

Habitat loss is a huge problem when it comes to elephant survival. Taking care of our planet is a great step in the right direction. Host a recycling drive to teach students about protecting the planet for themselves, elephants, and generations to come.

Here's what to do:

1. Identify your local recycling center. Your local city website often lists recycling locations, but you can also start your search here: <http://www.iwanttoberecycled.org/search>
2. Contact IEF to officially notify us of your event and qualify for prizes: sconley@elephantconservation.org
3. Download and print out [flyers](#) announcing your recycling drive. Remember to put a deadline on the flyer.
4. Promote your event using social media (create a Facebook event page, build a buzz on Twitter, etc).
5. Make posters and banners to advertise around the school.
6. Contact local news media and ask to be listed in upcoming events and community calendars.
7. Collect bottles & cans. Tip: It helps to keep different kinds of recyclables separated as you go to streamline the redemption process since most centers require items to be sorted by kind (aluminum, plastic, glass).
8. Redeem your recyclables & donate the proceeds to IEF.

Tips:

- Set up recycling bins in school cafeterias, lounges, and meeting rooms.
- Ask cafeteria staff if they have any empty containers that can be recycled.

Walk-A-Thon Safari

Like humans, elephants tend to stay in the same area as long as there is plenty of food and water to keep them comfortable. When they need to find new food and water sources elephants might roam large distances, which helps them stay in good physical condition. Get your students moving by hosting a Walk-A-Thon Safari! They can gather pledges for each lap they walk, with the proceeds going to IEF.

Here's what to do:

1. Identify a date and location for your Walk-A-Thon Safari. Some good locations are playgrounds, sports fields, or parks.
2. Contact IEF to officially notify us of your event and qualify for prizes:
sconley@elephantconservation.org
3. Download, print, and distribute [flyers](#) and [pledge sheets](#).
4. Promote your event using social media (create a Facebook event page, build a buzz on Twitter, etc).
5. Contact local news media and ask to be listed in upcoming events and community calendars.
6. Two weeks prior to the event: Students and participants gather pledges from supporters. They can pledge a dollar amount per lap the participant completes or a total amount if the participant follows through with the event.
7. Hold your Walk-A-Thon Safari!
8. Week after event: Participants collect money pledged from supporters and turn it into the teacher.
9. Donate proceeds to IEF.

Tips on holding your event:

- Make it more like a safari: Have students make animal masks to wear while they walk. IEF has elephant masks you can print [here](#), or design your own. Remember on an African safari you can see lions, giraffes, rhinos, hippos, zebras, cheetahs, elephants, and more!
- Set up cones, balloons, or other decorations to delineate the path of the safari. Consider making themed signs pointing the way to different African countries or landmarks within a country (example: the national parks of Kenya: Tsavo, Masai Mara, and Amboseli).
- At the start of the safari give each participant a notecard with his/her name on it. Have a responsible adult at the starting line who will mark off each completed lap on the participant's card as they go around.
- Encourage everyone to reach elephant milestones based on the number of laps they complete. Check out this [suggested information](#). Put it on a poster at the event or on the lap tally cards.
- Consider coordinating with local businesses to donate water, juice, and snacks for the event.
- Create a playlist of fun, fast-paced, age-appropriate songs to play during the event, to inspire people to move.

Car Wash

Did you know a full grown male African elephant can weigh more than two times the weight of an average pick-up truck (6000 lbs) and three to four times the weight of a sedan (4000 lbs)? Your classroom, scouting troop, club, or team can hold a car wash and wash the mini-elephants in your neighborhood!

Here's what to do:

1. Identify a date, time, and location for your Car Wash. Try to pick a location that visible from the street so passing cars can see you. Make sure the location has access to water.
2. Contact IEF to officially notify us of your event and qualify for prizes:
sconley@elephantconservation.org
3. Download and print out [flyers](#) announcing your event.
4. Promote your event using social media (create a Facebook event page, build a buzz on Twitter, etc).
5. Try to get car soap, sponges, and drying cloths donated from community members and/or local businesses.
6. Make banners and posters to advertise the event around your school, and to put up on the day of the event.
7. Hold your Car Wash!
8. Donate proceeds to IEF.

Tips on holding your event:

- Reach out to local car and auto parts shops to try to get donations of car wash soap and sponges.
- Contact local news media and ask to be listed in upcoming events and community calendars.
- Consider charging different prices based on the size of the cars, sedans at a base price and trucks and large SUVs an increased fee.
- Encourage the kids to dress up, decorate their own t-shirts, and put out banners, posters, balloons, and play music to encourage a festive atmosphere.
- Designate a person to handle the money collected (preferable someone not washing the cars so the money doesn't get soaked).

Garage Sale

Spring cleaning can happen any time of year, so why not sell your unwanted stuff as a fundraiser to help elephants!

Things to remember:

- Check your local restrictions to make sure it is legal for you to have a garage sale.
- Consider advertising in the local newspaper or online (Craigslist, Yard Sale Search, Garage Sale Hunter, etc).
- Put up signs in your neighborhood 1-2 days beforehand.
- Have plenty of small bills so you can make change.
- Sort and price your items.