

Did you know that Cote d'Ivoire is the world's largest chocolate-producing country? Since Lent is a season of self-denial, we recommend that you try some of these chocolate-related fundraising ideas, beginning on Easter Day.

Chocolate Fundraising Ideas

1. **“Sweetest of the Sweet” Award Chocolate Ball**—Honor the best volunteer or the “sweetest person in town.” Offer a chocolate-inspired menu such as chocolate vinaigrette pear salad over spring greens, chicken in a chocolate mole sauce and a rich over-the-top dessert. Invite people to dress formally in white chocolate, milk chocolate and dark chocolate gowns or suits.
2. **Chocolate Fondue Tasting**—Provide several chocolate fondue stations throughout a large room with silent-auction items interspersed for bidding with auction item winners announced every 15 minutes over the course of two hours.
3. **Chocolate Trivia Contest**—Charge a fee at the door to allow contestants to compete as teams. Announce winners each half-hour and award chocolate gift baskets. Serve hot chocolate with chocolate-chip cookies.
4. **Chocolate Chip Olympics**—Award prizes for the biggest, smallest and no sugar/no chocolate cookies. Have a “Toss Your Cookies” contest to see who can throw a cookie the farthest as well as other Olympics-style events.
5. **Chocolate Friendly Night**—Have a tasting contest featuring homemade chocolate desserts from members of the congregation. Ask tasters to vote for their favorite dessert. Award prizes for each category.
6. **Death by Chocolate**—Sponsor a murder-mystery night. Recruit a local drama group to direct the event.
7. **Chocolate Festival**—Encourage volunteer local chocolate vendors, caterers and chefs to donate time and materials to showcase their best chocolate desserts. Set up stalls around a fellowship hall or other large room. Sell coffee, hot chocolate, chocolate confections and soft drinks and offer silent-auction items donated by local businesses.
8. **Coffee and Chocolate**—Enlist the support of local coffee and candy shops to contribute coffee and chocolate or to sell it at cost. Auction gift baskets. Allow attendees to sample various coffees and chocolate desserts and candies. Offer local businesses to sponsor at various levels of donations such as Title, Venti, Grande and Tall. Give participants opportunities to sample various appetizers donated by local restaurants and retailers.

9. **Cocoa Celebration**—Pair a diverse menu of cocoas such as traditional, cinnamon twist, marshmallow cloud and raspberry truffle with a talent show. Invite people to dress casually for a relaxing evening of sharing a warm treat and talents.
10. **Chocolate Cook-off**—Challenge contestants to prepare food that contains chocolate in various categories: appetizers, main entrée, desserts (with sub-categories such as cakes, tarts, pies, candies and cookies). Ask attendees to vote for their favorite dishes. Award prizes donated by local businesses.
11. **Are You Smarter than a Chocolate Bunny?**—Have a contest between adults and children with questions similar to those featured on the “Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader?” TV show.
12. **Chocolate Candy-Making Classes**—recruit a local candy maker to teach classes. Divide the class fee with the instructor unless he or she donates time and expertise. Use church funds to purchase materials.