

## Fundraising Ideas

### How do you go about asking for contributions?

1. Get clear about why you're doing your initiation. When you can see the importance of this initiation for yourself you can explain it to your friends, family, and community more easily. Watch this TED talk about "starting with why":  
[https://www.ted.com/talks/simon\\_sinek\\_how\\_great\\_leaders\\_inspire\\_action](https://www.ted.com/talks/simon_sinek_how_great_leaders_inspire_action)
2. Recognize that your initiation is a major life event. It's perfectly okay and expected to ask for support to be able to do it. Asking for support in the form of money can be uncomfortable. That doesn't make it bad or wrong. Traditionally, it was the community and elders that made it possible for young people to be initiated. Watch this TED talk about the art of asking:  
[https://www.ted.com/talks/amanda\\_palmer\\_the\\_art\\_of\\_asking](https://www.ted.com/talks/amanda_palmer_the_art_of_asking)
3. Make a list of people and organizations you can ask for financial support. Seek their and others' help. Be bold. (Examples: family, grandparents, friends, teammates, fellow church goers, scouts, club members, whole organizations, or other clubs). People your parents and grandparents age are more likely to have the resources to help. But don't rule out peers and those just a little older.
4. How are you going to ask? In-person (the best), over the phone (next best), email (not as great), Facebook (not as great, but good starting point to set up a time to meet or talk), online crowd-funding platform GoFundMe.com or YouCaring.com (can be effective, but usually requires many personal contacts to be effective, i.e. a big online friend list and email list).
5. Invite potential contributors to schedule a conversation about donating. You show people how important your conversation with them is to you by inviting them to set aside time to talk.
6. Right before the conversation, remind yourself why you're doing the initiation, what you're excited about, and what you're going to request from this person or organization. Be excited but unattached to the results.
7. Share your feelings (excitement, gratitude, even nervousness) for meeting with this person or group. Share what you are doing, your intention for doing it, and benefits you anticipate to yourself and others. Make a clear and specific ask. It's okay and encouraged to ask for more than you think they will give you. People will give the amount that's right for them.
8. Whatever the outcome, it is essential that you thank the person or group. Invite them to your homecoming ceremony (this ceremony is often 2 weeks after your return date on a Saturday).
9. If they give you money, put it in a safe place dedicated only to those monies.
10. Celebrate!

Other fundraising possibilities: Loans; temporary work offerings from family, friends, or community (yard work, filing, data entry, child care); bake sales; car washings; yard sales; and your brilliant original idea!

**HERE IS A SAMPLE LETTER FOR FUNDRAISING SUPPORT:**

Here is a letter written from the perspective of a family fundraising for their rite of passage. Personalize the following letter template with your name, any personal details, and maybe your wording or style. You can also use it as inspiration for your own letter.

*Dear Family & Friends,*

*We are excited to announce that youth's name will be a participant in Cascadia Quest's Youth Initiation this summer. This rite of passage will mark his/her/their transition from adolescence into adulthood. He/she/they will spend 9 days in the wilderness with skilled guides. Youth's name will continue to receive mentorship for 9 months following the Initiation.*

*We are reaching out to you for support. By offering a financial contribution, you will be supporting youth's name in a profound, life changing experience. Our goal is to raise \$financial amount. The fundraising will pay for the program costs as well any additional financial assistance necessary for ROP.*

*A key part of this rite of passage starts with a symbolic ceremony to cut cords with the birth parents, so youth's name can return from his journey as a young adult...no longer a child.*

*Please offer whatever amount comes from your heart. You can donate by going to [paypal.com](https://www.paypal.com) and choosing "Send Money to Friends & Family" via your email address Also you can mail a check to Your name and address. You can pay Cash to any of youth's parents (list here).*

*Thank you for showing up for youth's name at this key time in his/her/their life!*

*Read for more Information:*

<http://cascadiaquest.org/youth-rop>

<https://www.facebook.com/CascadiaQuest/>

<http://schooloflostborders.org/> (Rob Miller, Jenny Russell, Silvia Talavera & CQ are trained in this tradition)

*With so much love & gratitude from youth's name & all of his/her/their parents,*

*NAME, Relationship*

*NAME, Relationship*