El DORADO COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

FUNDRAISING PROTOCOL AND ALTERNATIVES TO RAFFLES

El Dorado County Fire Safe Council is a recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. EDCFSC has two categories of Fire Safe Councils. Currently we have Associate Councils. Associate Councils are under the umbrella of EDCFSC; meaning they are covered under EDCFSC's insurance and in some circumstances EDCFSC can issue tax deductible receipts for Associate Council donations. EDCFSC has 2 Affiliate Councils. Affiliate Councils have applied for and received their own 501(c)(3) nonprofit status from the State of California, Internal Revenue Service and the California Attorney General Registry of Charitable Trusts. Affiliate Councils pay for their own insurance and are responsible for filing their own taxes and all required state and federal reports.

RAFFLES: In order to conduct a raffle, a state issued annual raffle permit is required as well as a detailed annual report to the State. **EDCFSC does NOT have a raffle permit and raffles cannot be conducted under our nonprofit status.** Raffles are considered a form of gambling and a game of chance; as such, the consequences to an organization for conducting such activities illegally can be expensive in fines, penalties and loss of nonprofit status. It would be near impossible for EDCFSC to monitor, account for and report on the raffle activities of all our Associate Councils.

This document is meant to assist you with some alternatives to raffles, bingo and gaming for your fundraising activities.

Points to remember:

When hosting a food event or admission to an event, all costs to your guests are always a **"suggested donation"** and should be advertised as such. Understand that you cannot turn someone away or refuse them if they can't or won't pay. It is a donation.

- Silent Auctions are not a game or action of chance and are not considered a raffle or gambling. A silent auction is a sale of an item to the highest bidder.
- A raffle is where multiple people pay for a chance to win a prize based on a random draw. A raffle consists of an organization selling tickets separate from tickets to the admission to an event. **Raffles are not permitted.**
- Door prizes are allowed and not considered a game of chance or gambling. As long as everyone is given a "ticket" included with their admission to an event and not asked to pay an additional fee, their ticket is entered into a drawing for a door prize. You can have as many door prizes as you choose. Advertising your event with "suggested donation gives you into the opportunity to win some great door prizes" makes your event more of a "value". Everyone attending the event is eligible to win.
- Partner with another nonprofit organization such as your local firefighter auxiliary. Help them with their event; set up, work it, clean up, have your FSC table with informational items to distribute and ask the other nonprofit to share the revenue. The other nonprofit may have a raffle permit which would bring in more revenue!

- Bingo, card games, including poker, Bunko and the like are not considered gambling or gaming **if you are only charging an admission (suggested donation) fee, NO CASH PRIZES allowed,** but noncash gifts are acceptable. Everyone attending has the opportunity to win. Selling snacks and refreshments are also allowed.
- Always have a "donation jar" available and within sight of your guests. You would be surprised how many people will generously drop a $20.00 bill in your jar.
- Your Fire Safe Council can apply with the State and Federal Government for your own nonprofit 501(c)(3) status. This process can be expensive and time consuming and remember, if you become recognized as your own nonprofit, you will have to obtain your own insurance.

Suggested Fundraising

Alternatives:

Hotdog/hamburger social
Pancake Breakfast
Silent Auctions
Door Prizes
Partnership with other nonprofits for an event and share the revenue
Dinners (spaghetti dinner, BBQ, Taco Tuesday or Cinco de Mayo, Cowboy BBQ, themed events or dinners}.
Sponsorships
Dinner/Dance
Community Picnic/BBQ - charge for BBQ but also have informational tables available.
Halloween event - decorate and do a Trunk or Treat with a BBQ, charge an admission donation
Easter Egg Hunt with a breakfast, charge an admission donation
Game or Card night/day, Bunko, Bingo - NO CASH PRIZES, gift prizes allowed, charge an admission donation to play or participate. These can also be themed.
Movie Night - if anyone has an outdoor movie theater set up or projector.
Concession sales.
Address sign sales

Use your imagination. People enjoy getting together! Take every opportunity to promote and bring awareness to your local Fire Safe Council and earn a little money! Don't hesitate to reach out for more clarification or assistance.