

Ideas for Items and Services for Live and Silent Auctions

Items and Services Commonly Used

- Dinner for two
- A pair of movie, ballet, symphony, opera, sport event, concert or theatre tickets
- Vacation packages
- Car service or maintenance
- Flowers every month for a year
- Ski passes
- Massages, hair and beauty treatments
- Wagon full of toys – 1 for girls, 1 for boys
- Laptop or the latest greatest software
- Lawn care, landscaping, top soil, sprinkler installation
- Carpet cleaning
- Window washing
- Children's books and movies
- Gym and athletic club memberships
- What are the current fads? What are people clamoring to buy? Get that.

Items One Cannot Get Anywhere Else

- Something autographed by a celebrity
- A happy birthday wish lit up on a huge electric public billboard
- Be a guest conductor of an orchestra or symphony
- 18 holes of golf with a famous golfer or celebrity
- An American Flag flown over the U.S. Capitol. A flag can be obtained by writing to your U.S. Senator or Congressman.
- Concert tickets and a back-stage pass
- A reserved parking spot for one year
- Front row seats to a concert, game, graduation or play
- Movie, play, or TV walk-on role
- Lunch with a movie or TV cast
- A gourmet meal prepared at the winning bidder's home by a local chef
- Tickets to TV shows like Letterman, Leno, Oprah, and Saturday Night Live or the taping of a sitcom
- TV or radio station tour by a news anchor
- Principal for a day – parents buy this for one of their children
- A private performance or concert by a famous musician or entertainer
- A date with a bachelor or bachelorette – include a date package
- Tickets to a popular concert in a distant city, round trip airfare for 2, and a night at a nice hotel.
- A street named after you – talk to the developer
- A kiss from a model or celebrity
- Shadow a government official or famous person for a half day. Lunch or dinner included
- Go around with a TV news crew
- A private after-hours shopping spree
- A caricature drawn by a famous cartoonist
- A private anything tour – zoo, castle, expensive home
- A speaking role on air at a radio station
- Mystery box – nice item with general appeal to be opened only after it is purchased
- Vase – half way through the bidding, stop and ask everyone for a dollar and fill it up. Continue the bidding.

Fun with Celebrities

(TV or movie star, a popular entertainer, a local radio or TV personality, a government official, a CEO of a corporation, or a local or national popular sports figure)

- Lunch or dinner with a celebrity
- Your name as a character in an author's next novel
- Be escorted to an event by a celebrity
- An hour of one-on-one training with a famous sports person
- A celebrity to record a greeting on your voice mail or answering machine
- A celebrity to mow your grass. Throw a lawn mower into the package.
- A photo with a celebrity. After you sell this opportunity to the highest bidder, announce that anyone who matches the bid will get their photo with the celebrity as well.
- A back-stage pass to meet the celebrity after a performance.

Bundled Items

If you have many small items, bundle them in a pretty basket or other decorative container. Ask your staff, committee chairs, volunteers, and board members (and all their friends) – to bring a bottle of wine. Put them into a donated wheelbarrow and auction it off. Ask everyone to bring a particular tool, and fill a tool chest. Have everyone bring a CD or DVD. What if you had a Hollywood theme? In your invitation you could ask everyone to bring a DVD to the event with them. Collect all the DVDs in a basket and sell the basket.

Include Airfare with Destinations

A condo on the beach might make a fine auction item, but a condo on the beach with airfare included makes a fabulous auction item. You'll generate more interest if you provide a way to get to far away destinations.

Swap Items with Out-of-state Organizations

If you procure a weekend stay at a nice hotel in your city, instead of trying to sell it at your auction to a local guest, contact some organizations in popular tourist cities and ask to swap hotels. Think of other items you could swap, such as tickets to a concert or sporting event, ski passes, theatre tickets, or a week-long stay in a condo. A continued relationship with other organizations could lead to some sweet deals.

Auctioning Puppies

If you are going to sell a puppy, consider the following:

- It should be at least eight weeks old. Nine is better.
- It should be a purebred and properly papered.
- It should have had its first exam and shots.
- Popular breeds have more general appeal.
- Include a basket filled with puppy necessities like, puppy food, puppy toys, brush, leash, collar, etc.
- The puppy should be accompanied by a professional handler throughout the entire event.
- Do not let the winning bidder take delivery of the puppy on the day of the event. Rather, deliver the puppy to the new owners two or three days later. That will allow the new owner time to get their home prepared for the new arrival.
- Reserve the right to not sell the puppy. This is in case you feel the winning bidder will not take good care of it for whatever reason.

You should know that auctioning puppies (and other pets) are a topic of concern with animal rights groups. Before you decide to auction a puppy, please read what The Humane Society of the United States and the American Kennel Club (AKC) have to say about it. Go to www.LetsDoAnAuction.com/resources.htm.

Common Services

- Yard work
- Lawn mowing
- Snow shoveling
- Landscape design
- Baking
- Cooking a meal
- Cookies delivered every week for a month
- Fresh bread delivered every week for month
- Hosting a picnic
- Catering
- Washing windows
- Front row seats at an event
- A VIP reserved parking spot
- Celebrity to show up at a birthday or company party
- Photo with a celebrity
- Family/personal portrait
- Host a birthday party
- Tutoring
- Provide musical talent at an event
- Painting – house external or internal
- Face painting at a birthday party

- Interior design
- House cleaning and/or organizing
- Once-a-month dog wash and grooming
- Pet sitting
- Dog walking
- Dog training
- Makeup make-over
- Haircut, color
- Manicure, pedicure
- Car wash
- Financial consulting
- Tax preparation
- Will preparation
- Computer repair
- Computer consulting e.g. setting up a home wireless network
- Dental work
- Grocery shopping for someone
- Transporting people to places – taxi service
- Limo service
- Heating/Air conditioning services
- Shoe shining
- Shopping consulting
- Car repair/maintenance
- Massage therapy
- Fitness training
- Deliver a meal/desert
- Deliver a week's worth of meals/deserts
- Sewing
- Quilting
- Use of a vacation home
- Use of a motor home
- Tickets to the zoo
- Carpentry work
- Electrical work
- Plumbing work
- Housecleaning
- Handyman – rent-a-husband
- Hot tub party
- Pool maintenance
- Roof repair
- Continuing education classes
- Stringing Christmas lights on your house – and taking them down

Teaching a skill

- Fly fishing
- Skiing
- Golfing
- Tennis
- Weight lifting
- Surfing
- Self-defense
- Scrap-booking
- Flower arranging
- Cooking
- Canning
- Baking
- Sewing
- Quilting
- Dancing
- Musical instrument
- Singing lessons
- Drawing/Art lessons
- First aid training
- Survival training
- Dutch oven cooking
- Cake decorating
- Secrets to good photography

Providing an experience

- Fishing trip – fly fishing or deep-sea fishing
- Snowmobiling
- Cross country skiing
- Snowshoeing
- Hunting
- Target shooting
- Rollerblading
- Ice skating
- Rock climbing
- Motorcycle riding
- Waterskiing
- Skydiving
- Scuba diving
- Snorkeling
- Horseback riding
- Camping
- River running
- Canoeing
- Kayaking
- Sailing
- Cross country bicycling
- Kiss from a celebrity
- A date with someone
- Airplane ride
- Four-wheeling on the back roads
- Be a guest conductor of an orchestra or a symphony
- Be a radio co-disc jockey
- A guided tour of a TV studio by a news anchor person
- Parasailing
- A guided tour of a really cool place