

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- halfway 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.

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