



Volunteer Fundraising FAQ's

Thank you for your commitment to helping fuel our mission by raising money for ACS CAN . We want to make sure you have all the information you need to be successful, so we have compiled a list of frequently asked questions and answers to make things easier.

Is a contribution to ACS CAN tax-deductible?

No. Contributions to ACS CAN are not tax-deductible as charitable or business expenses. Contributions to ACS CAN are not tax deductible because we use the donations to support our citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts to end cancer as we know it for everyone.

Do I need to include the ACS CAN tax disclaimer on event materials?

Yes. Any document requesting donations for ACS CAN needs to include this tax disclaimer: "Contributions or membership payments to the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Inc., are not tax-deductible." That is true even if the flyer is created by the venue hosting the event.

Does ACS CAN provide tax receipts?

No. Contributions or membership payments to ACS CAN are not tax-deductible, so tax receipts will not be provided.

What are the rules around becoming an ACS CAN member when someone gives?

Any donor who donates \$10 or more through your DonorDrive personal page will become a member of ACS CAN. If you receive an offline contribution, please reference the [volunteer guide to using society donations batching](#).

Does ACS CAN reimburse volunteers for their event expenses?

No. ACS CAN is not financially responsible for a volunteer's event expenses.

Is the use of the membership forms required?

In the case where funding may be received in person and not through the DonorDrive online site, the standard ACS CAN Membership Form should be used whenever possible. If someone wants to make a contribution without becoming a member, ACS CAN will accept it. Promptly enter the proceeds in your online fundraising center and contact your ACS CAN Staff Partner about how to process the donation(s).

What content must be on material prepared for a fundraiser?

All material that you create must clearly state that contributions support the "American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network." It must contain the tax-disclaimer language: "Contributions or membership payments to the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Inc., are not tax-deductible."

All materials prepared must be approved by your ACS CAN Staff Partner.

Can the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network logo be used?

Yes, the ACS CAN logo can be used on event materials. You can contact your ACS CAN Staff Partner for a copy of the logo. All materials prepared, including use of the logo, must be approved by your ACS CAN Staff Partner.

Can I accept checks?

Yes. Checks should be made to "ACS CAN." Reach out to your ACS CAN staff partner for instructions on processing the check(s).

Where do I deposit offline proceeds?

Enter the information into your DonorDrive page and then follow the instructions for [Society Donations Batching](#). Reach out to your staff partner for more information.

Can I sell goods and services to raise funds for ACS CAN?

You can offer courtesy goods and services to those who give. "Bake sales" and the like should include materials that explain this concept. Flyers and signs should contain this language: "Prices are suggested contribution amounts. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. Goods and services are provided

courtesy of volunteers to the ACS CAN." Materials should also include the tax-disclaimer language: "Contributions or membership payments to the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Inc., are not tax-deductible."

Can I sell items with only the ACS CAN logo?

No. Items must display more than just the ACS CAN logo. They must include a phrase that in some way talks about our mission. For example: "Cancer Fighter", "Fighting cancer is my superpower" or "Cancer is non-partisan" Feel free to have the volunteer make up their own phrase.

Can I sell items (Ex: T-shirts) using a third-party online website

Yes. As long as all proceeds are directed to ACS CAN and the majority of the donations will go to ACS CAN not to the cost of the fundraiser. Please email acscafundraising@cancer.org for approval from the ACS CAN Fundraising team before moving forward. Instructions on selling items and pricing requirements can be found [here](#).

Can I sell items (Ex: Popcorn, chocolate, flowers) using a third-party online website where a portion of all sales come to ACS CAN?

Yes. As long as a portion of proceeds are directed to ACS CAN.

Can I host a fundraising event such as a dinner party, workout class or other special activities?

Yes. So long as all proceeds are directed to ACS CAN and the requirements described above, such as getting approval on material and tax-disclaimer language, is followed. If you have the event at a commercial location, such as a restaurant, you continue to be responsible for the costs and all proceeds collected must go to ACS CAN.

Can I make a commitment for a restaurant night where some of the meal purchase goes to ACS CAN?

Not without the income development team and legal counsel's approval. In many states, nonprofit laws regulate these events and restaurants are not consistent in how they comply with the laws. Many restaurants have their own written contracts that a volunteer might be offered but should not sign.

In most instances, ACS CAN will need to enter a contract with the restaurant to outline the parameters of the promotion. For that reason, we ask that you discuss the option with the income development team who can help you through the process. While a volunteer cannot enter an agreement on ACS CAN's behalf, ACS CAN can decide to enter the agreement to support your volunteer efforts.

The establishment needs to offer food or have food on the menu in order to move forward with this type of fundraiser.

Is a contract required for a restaurant night where a portion of proceeds come to ACS CAN?

Yes, after ACS CAN approval the restaurant will need to sign a contract provided by ACS CAN. This contract can be found on the income development SharePoint website or [here](#).

Can I make a commitment for a restaurant night where alcohol is served?

Yes, volunteers can host a restaurant night where alcohol will be served **as long as the establishment also has food on the menu**. We need to enter into a one day contract with the establishment.

Can I serve alcohol at a fundraising event?

ACS CAN prefers that alcohol is not served at most fundraising events. However, in circumstances where a licensed provider (bartender) is involved, ACS CAN would provide a [contract](#) to the vendor that would assure the venue has an appropriate license and insurance. Your ACS CAN Staff Partner would have to work directly with the venue to complete the [contract](#). The volunteer would remain responsible for the cost of the event, including alcohol.

If I have an event with alcohol served, can I advertise the event?

First, follow the instructions above, "Can I serve alcohol at a fundraising event" Once you have the signed contract you can advertise the event. You cannot have pictures of alcoholic beverages in the materials you are creating. And you cannot have a made-up drink name featured for the event. Example: *"cancer free pink martini"*

All materials prepared must be approved by your ACS CAN Staff Partner.

Can I hold a raffle or sweepstakes to fundraise for ACS CAN?

No. Unfortunately state laws are very strict regarding this type of activity, and it would require ACS CAN to operate the event. For that reason, volunteers are asked not to conduct these activities.

Can I hold an auction?

Yes. ACS CAN has an approved online vendor, GiveSmart to host silent auctions. Reach out to your ACS CAN staff partner, who must supervise any online auction and report to Event Compliance, to get an online auction set up for your fundraiser.