

# 112 AUCTION ITEMS

## Auctioneer:

Aristotle Karas  
720-260-4283

[www.ImagineBenefitAuctions.com](http://www.ImagineBenefitAuctions.com)

7 Thing to  
Avoid

26 Basic Themes  
For items and baskets

Tips for getting  
Donations



## COMMERCIAL DONATIONS

### Tips for getting Donations from businesses:

- Visit in person
- Speak to the manager
- Bring an informational letter about your cause to leave behind
- Offer to come back to pick up donated items
- Follow up “maybe’s” with a phone call
- Be specific about what you want
- Be creative and open minded about accepting donations
- Ask for a sponsorship donation, if not an auctionable item (to cover the cost of decorations, food, printing, desserts, music/dj, etc.)
- Put yourself in their shoes—they want business growth opportunities
- Send a proper thank-you letter in a timely manner



### Venue tips

Pick a place with a great sound system, easy to find, lots of parking, easy layout for the size of your event, and visit it personally before you commit to it, to see if it will work.

## Auction Item List

1. A day at the farm
2. Anything with the local fire department or police department—ride in a vehicle, tour, birthday party at the station, wear gear, photo op.
3. Basketball party in the gym
4. Be the school mascot at an event
5. Bedtime story in your own home, read by your teacher
6. Boating trip on a local lake or river
7. Boating trip with the boat owner and your group of friends
8. Camping trip, hosted by an experienced family for camping novices
9. Fee-free year: no PTO dues, free yearbook, school T-shirt, no field trip fees, no school supply fees, no class party fee, free school photo package
10. Grab bag of goodies (leftovers worth at least XX dollars)
11. Guest DJ on a local radio station
12. Lunch with the principal at a local restaurant
13. Limo ride for students to lunch off site with a local celebrity or the principal
14. Lunch at a reserved table in the cafeteria with several friends for a month
15. Museum or bookstore field trip with the teacher
16. Name the school road for a year; keep the street sign at the end of the year
17. Picnic lunch with a teacher outdoors at school
18. Principal for a day
19. Reserved parking at school, for a month, year, or other time period
20. Reserved seating at key family events
21. Reserved seating for all school events (concerts, assemblies, graduation, etc.)
22. School ambassador for a day—e.g., represent the school at a board meeting
23. Season pass to district sporting events
24. Sleepover at the school
25. Special stuffed toy with classroom storybooks
26. Tour of a local factory
27. Tour of local newspaper, radio station, TV station, or sporting venues (even if there's no game)

28. Training session with high school or college coaches (check league and NCAA rules first) or a high school team (e.g., cheerleaders or pompom squad)

## Student Handicrafts

**These items sell well, but keep an eye on quality and leave plenty of lead time.**

29. Clay vases, hand-painted aprons, decorated T-shirts, personalized picture frames, bound storybooks
30. Ceramic tiles, turned into trivets or a table top
31. Clay snack-serving set, platter, or anything from a paint-it-yourself pottery store
32. Collage done with individual drawing or paintings, framed or decoupaged onto a larger item
33. Decorated jeans, tennis shoes, hats
34. Decorated vinyl shower curtains (use Sharpie markers)
35. Fall harvest scarecrows
36. Garden stepping stones
37. Mosaic stepping stones, garden benches, garden tables, bird baths
38. Notecards printed with student drawings, envelopes included
39. Painted bird houses
40. Painted cookie jars, ceramic platters, lamp bases, large frames, throw rugs
41. Painted umbrellas
42. Patchwork quilts: photos, handprints, signatures, drawing transfers, team T-shirts
43. Rocking chair, footstool, side chair, nightstand, toy box painted with handprints, thumbprints, or faces
44. Wooden bench covered with poems or sayings written by students

## Teacher/Staff Donations

45. Art teacher: private lessons, trip to a museum, paint a mural at your home
46. Bedtime story read by your teacher, child keeps book
47. Chaperone an outing in summertime
48. Computer training in your home
49. Gym teacher: supervises a birthday party at the gym
50. Music teacher: compose and record a song with your child's name, play piano at your birthday party, guest conductor for school concert

51. Photo collages, e.g. a week in the life of Mrs. Smith's 2006 fourth-grade class
52. A book of student responses to open-ended questions
53. Tutoring

## Always Popular

54. Sports tickets
55. Sports memorabilia
56. Tickets for local cultural events
57. Vacation packages with few restrictions or strings
58. Gift certificates for dinner at a nice restaurant
59. Wine
60. Golf
61. High-end jewelry (auctioned with a reserve price; no risk of underpricing it)

## Themed Baskets

62. Everything Sports: anything sports—balls, games, water bottles, sportswear
63. All Scream for Ice Cream: fixings for sundaes, cones, toppings, gift certificates
64. Backyard Chef or Grill Out: barbecue sauces, grill accessories, Omaha Steak gift certificates
65. Backyard Fun: kids beach chair, pail, bubbles, sidewalk chalk, sand castle tools
66. Beach Party: towels, toys, umbrella, folding chair, sunscreen, sunglasses, iPod
67. Birthday Party in a Basket or Where's the Party: cake pan, cake mixes, balloons, piñata, plates, napkins, party favors
68. Bookworm Bonanza or The Bookstore: books, bookmarks, book light, nameplates
69. Building Blocks: Lego, Lincoln Logs, Jenga
70. Bundle Of Joy: baby shower gifts for a parent-to-be
71. Candle Basket: assorted candles, candle holders, snuffer, fancy matches
72. Car Wash: bucket, sponges, chamois, paper towels, Armor All, Turtle Wax, air fresheners
73. Chef's Delight: cookbooks, kitchen gadgets, bowls, spices, oils, cutting board
74. Christmas: ornaments, cards, wrapping paper, decorations
75. Coffee Break: mugs, assorted coffees, chocolate-covered spoons, biscotti

76. Cookie Monster: cookie pans, dough, recipes, add-ins, decorations

77. Date Night: dinner, tickets to concert or ballet, baby-sitting service

78. Day at the Pool: floats, sunscreen, flip-flops, toys, towels

79. Disney Mania: videos, clothing, towels, school supplies, anything else Disney

80. Do-It-Yourself: tool belt, instruction books, painting supplies, store gift card

81. Family Fun Nights: movie night, game night, etc.

82. Family Night Out: certificate for a four-person dinner, movie tickets

83. Fiesta Fiesta: Mexican jumping beans, fancy salsa and chips, recipe book

84. Fisherman's Cove: rod and reels, fishing line, tackle and bait, gift certificate

85. Garden of Eden: seeds, soil, tools, garden artwork, accessories, plants

86. Get Well Soon: chicken soup, robe, crossword puzzles, tea, pillow, eye mask

87. Gift Wrap: assorted papers, ribbons and bows, notecards, fancy scissors, tape

88. Hair Care: hot-oil treatment, hair towel, brush, hair clips and bands, blow-dryer

89. House Beautiful: cleaning supplies, dust cloths and polish, cleaning service

90. Italian Feast: pasta machine, fancy olive oils, spaghetti fork

91. It's a Girl or It's a Boy: new-baby supplies

92. Just What the Dr. Ordered: Dr. Seuss books, pajamas, towels, other logo items

94. Kitchen Gadgets: colander, slotted and serving spoons, measuring cups, pot holders, tongs, cutting board

94. Life's Simple Pleasures: fluffy robe, scented candles, bath and body products,

manicure/pedicure supplies or certificate, eye pillow, facial mask

95. Love for Learning: reference books, reading light, flashcards, school supplies

96. Manicure/Pedicure: nail clippers, nail file, emery boards, polish remover, cotton balls, cuticle remover, orange stick, hand lotion, assorted nail polishes

97. Men's Night Out: small TV, poker chips, cards, cigars, snack foods

98. New Home: tool kit, picture-hanging supplies, address numbers, stud finder

99. Pasta Mania: colander, cheese grater, fancy pasta, sauces, and olive oils

100. Petite Picasso: arts and crafts supplies

101. Photo Supplies: certificate for portrait session, picture frames, albums

102. School Spirit: blanket in school colors, sportswear, mascot for a day, lead cheer at sport event

103. Soccer Fun: ball, portable goal net, jersey/shorts, game tickets

104. Something's Fishy: mini tank, food, decorations, gift certificate for fish

105. Spirited Exchange: various wines wine log, tasting book

106. Stationery Basket: stamps, journal, notecards, gel pens/markers, envelopes

107. Tea Break: mugs, assorted loose and bag teas, infuser, honey, biscotti

108. Teacher's Pet: personal pampering items, additional school supplies, books

109. Tee Time: golf-club covers, certificate for lessons or course time, tees

110. Toy of the Moment: hottest toy of the time and accessories

111. Travel: games, snack items, DVD player and discs, books on tape

112. Writer's Workshop: pens/pencils, lap desk, dictionary, journal



**Make each  
item count!**

## LAYOUT MATTERS



### Presentation counts

Make sure that items are clearly labeled and there is space for people to bid. If people are unsure of what to do, they are less likely to bid and often feel silly that they don't know the process.

Let everyone know how much time they have to bid and when the silent auction closes. Make verbal announcements to remind everyone how much time is left.



# DO'S AND DON'TS



## Auction tips:

The better people are able to hear, the more they bid.

Make everything fun, the more fun the Donors have, the more they are willing to give.

Avoid lines, such as buffets, check in/out. If people are standing in line, they are not bidding.

## 26 Basic Theme Ideas for Auction Lots and Baskets:

1. Automobile care
2. Baking gadgets
3. Camping supplies
4. Candy/chocolates
5. College student care package, including shipping costs
6. Computer software and servicing
7. Dress-up supplies
8. Exercise
9. First-aid kit for a car or camper
10. Home children's library
11. Housewarming
12. Lottery tickets
13. Mother's Day or Father's Day
14. Nascar
15. Patriotic/Fourth of July
16. Pet pampering or general pet supplies
17. Safety products for home or automobile
18. School supplies, including a backpack and supplies box
19. Science items
20. Scrapbooking
21. Sewing
22. Snow day
23. Spa night/ladies' night in or ladies' night out
24. Sports-specific baskets for baseball, basketball, football, etc.
25. Local sports tickets
26. Teddy bears

## 7 Things To Avoid

1. Artwork done by amateurs other than the school's own students
2. Collectibles with a narrow appeal (e.g., figurines, vases/decorative glassware, coins)
3. Anything used, unless it's antique and obviously valuable
4. Certificates for partial value (e.g., \$100 off a \$20,000 roofing job)
5. Homemade items, unless they are of exceptional quality
6. Anything with a lot of fine print and restrictions—it's too hard for your guests to digest the fine print during the auction
7. Anything perceived to have a lot of fine print, even if it doesn't—be clear that there are no or few strings attached (e.g., for a weekend at a resort, people might assume there are strict, undesirable date restrictions even if there aren't)

Hang in there and grab the right items



# POSSIBLE SOURCES OF AUCTION ITEMS

## (and some donations examples)

1. Amusement parks
2. Appliance stores
3. Automotive shops (oil change, detailing, tire rotation)
4. Bakeries
5. Bed-and-breakfasts
6. Bookstores
7. Bowling centers
8. Caterers
9. Local colleges (waive tuition or auditing fee for a course)
10. College athletic associations (sports tickets, sportswear)
11. Cruise lines
12. Cultural venues such as museums, historical attractions, zoos, music arenas, theaters
13. Dance studios
14. Dentists (professional tooth whitening)
15. Electricians (install a new fixture)
16. Florist shops
17. Framing stores (frame your child's artwork; donation of foam core scraps for displays)
18. Local franchises of food chains, gas stations, convenience stores
19. Furniture stores
20. Hall rentals (with few strings attached)
21. Local hardware stores (donation of items; help with decorations)

22. Heating and A/C service companies
23. Home services (handyman, furnace repair, carpet cleaners, yard work, snow plowing)
24. Home-improvement centers
25. Home-based businesspeople (Pampered Chef, Avon, Discovery Toys, PartyLite)
26. Hotels and motels (special overnight stay)
27. Ice-cream shop
28. Landscaping companies (tree-trimming and other services)
29. Limousine services
30. Minor league sports teams
31. Optometrists (complete pair of prescription glasses)
32. Orthodontists (discount on services)
33. Personal chefs
34. Personal service providers (massage, nails, hair)
35. Pet shops (food, accessories, books)
36. Photo studios (family portrait sessions)
37. Plumbers (install a replacement faucet)



**Make every  
minute count**

Time = \$\$

38. Private teachers (music lessons, art lessons, personal trainers, dance classes)
39. Rental car companies
40. Local restaurants, including mom-and-pops places
41. Ski, golf, rock-climbing, tennis, swim club passes
42. Summer camps (buy a space for your kid or pay for a child in need)
43. Tailors/seamstresses (alterations)
44. Veterinarians (pet teeth cleaning, boarding, nail clipping)
45. Video stores
46. Videographers

### THEMES ARE FUN

Consider changing the venue, or the theme every year. People remember the fun and exciting venues and themes. Step out on a limb, don't be afraid to be different. Get a new video done every year of what was accomplished, or what the money is for. Have visuals and keep it simple. Most of all remember to say THANK YOU!

### 3 things to make your event GREAT!

- FUN
- TEAMWORK
- GENEROUS GIVING

### AUCTIONEER

**Aristotle Karas**

**700 N. Colorado Blvd. Suite 190  
Denver, CO 80206**

www. ImagineBenefitAuctions.com  
BENEFITS@ ImagingBenefitAuctions.com  
(720) 260-GAVE (4283)