

FAQs

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How does Make-A-Wish grant wishes?

Any child between the ages of 2½ and 18 at the time of referral who has a life-threatening medical condition and has not received a wish from another wish-granting organization may be eligible for a wish. The child's primary doctor determines whether or not a child has a life-threatening medical condition. Once qualified, a team of two Make-A-Wish volunteers visit the child to determine his or her wish.

How do we collect the money?

Make-A-Wish encourages kids to creatively design a bucket or other collection container(s). Most groups find it necessary to have change available for fundraising activities. At the end of the program, the school or organization should submit a check for the total amount raised to Make-A-Wish Mid-Atlantic.

Who should collect and count the money?

Collecting and counting funds is a great opportunity for student council, key club or PTA/PTO to become involved. Cash collected can be deposited into the school's account and a check can be submitted to Make-A-Wish Mid-Atlantic.

May we open a bank account to cash checks made payable to the Make-A-Wish?

No, you may not open a bank account under the Make-A-Wish name. If participants make checks payable to Make-A-Wish, they should be mailed to:

Make-A-Wish Mid-Atlantic
5272 River Rd, Suite 700
Bethesda, MD 20816

Please forward checks made out to Make-A-Wish within 30 days of the check date.

Supporters who give checks and credit card donations in the amount of \$250.00 or more will receive a written tax acknowledgement from Make-A-Wish.

Can Make-A-Wish secure sponsorship for our event?

No. Make-A-Wish is responsible for procuring sponsorship, in-kind goods and services for its existing fundraisers and for wish-granting purposes only.

Can Make-A-Wish secure insurance for our event?

No. Make-A-Wish is responsible for procuring insurance, in-kind goods and services for its existing fundraisers and for wish-granting purposes only.

What do I do with the cash from the fundraising event?

All cash money raised the day of the event should be collected and given to pre-designated individuals from the school or organization. These designated individuals should secure and monitor the cash in a safe or locked box until the money can be counted and deposited. After your fundraiser, checks should be mailed directly to Make-A-Wish Mid-Atlantic; while the school or organization tallies the money and combines the total campaign cash donations in a single check for forwarding to Make-A-Wish Mid-Atlantic.

For accounting and security purposes, Make-A-Wish prefers to receive a check instead of coins or cash. Please ask the event organizer to deposit the coins and send the funds to the Make-A-Wish Mid-Atlantic office in the form of a check. Proceeds from the program should be submitted within 30 days of the conclusion of the campaign.

A local business wants to support our fundraising event, but they need Make-A-Wish's tax identification number.

A W-9, which includes Make-A-Wish's tax identification number, can be provided upon request. The IRS does not allow the waiver of sales tax for items used for events that are not produced by Make-A-Wish.

Businesses may request a copy of Make-A-Wish's Tax Determination letter which identifies Make-A-Wish as being qualified for tax exempt status under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Businesses may include this letter with their tax filings to prove the charities they support are legitimate.

Will Make-A-Wish solicit individuals who make donations?

Donors who provide their physical address or email address will be included in Make-A-Wish's mailing list, unless otherwise instructed. Donors may receive Make-A-Wish newsletters, annual mailing appeals and invitations to special events or emails.

Does Make-A-Wish telemarket?

As a matter of national policy, Make-A-Wish does not engage in telemarketing or door-to-door solicitation and participants in our *Kids For Wish Kids* program may not use these techniques either.

Who should we avoid contacting to support our fundraiser?

You may not approach any organization outside of the Make-A-Wish chapter's territory – central and southern Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland and northern Virginia.

Please check with your Make-A-Wish contact if you are planning to go to a company outside of the counties listed above, or before reaching out to any sponsors for your event or promotion. This will help us ensure there is no duplication of efforts that may be currently underway.

Make-A-Wish has a "DO NOT CONTACT" list of businesses that we would like to share with you before you begin your outreach. Please make sure to keep track of businesses that you plan to contact and their responses so you can update Make-A-Wish throughout your plans and at the end of your event.