# How to Effectively Spend Funds Before the End of the Year for Camps

Utilize funding productively for your staff and participants with these great ideas.

# Ensure You're Spending Funds Throughout The Year

Discover how to spend the rest of your yearly budget efficiently.

Grants and donations are important for many organizations, as that's how they attain funding for operation costs and to put on programs, classes, events and camps throughout the year. Even though you've done an amazing job providing for your community and participants, it's quite possible that through your impressive ability to deliver the things your community needs within a tight budget that you may have some additional funds left over that need to be spent before the year's end in order to be able to acquire more funding next year.

What's a director to do? How do you ensure leftover funds are utilized in a productive way that is sure to be money well spent? Read on to discover a few helpful ideas that can benefit your organization and your community.

## Staff/Volunteer Trainings

There is always room to grow and learn in any profession, especially if you deal with a variety of personality types, disabilities and cultures within your community. One of the greatest things you can do to ensure you're serving your community and participants as best as possible is by offering your staff, and even your volunteers, trainings that equip them with the skills they need to excel. Some trainings could focus on mental health, behavior de-escalation, diversity, equity and inclusion or whatever else your staff and volunteers would like to learn or understand.

## Translation

It's possible that you have a wide variety of cultures within your community and are in need of having all your public-facing materials (online/digital materials included) translated into multiple languages so you can be as inclusive as possible to everyone you serve.

Depending on how much you need translating and what languages you need to have your materials translated into, it could take up quite a bit of your

leftover budget and fill the need

## .Useful Software

If you find yourself in a bind because you don't have someone on staff who can do that thing you really need done, there's likely an app or a piece of software for that—no training required! It could be a simple Google search away to find what you need. But just in case, take a look at some of our recommendations for graphic design software and image hosing/sharing software..

### Graphic Design

Are you having to do your own designing when it comes to marketing materials, flyers and more? Canva Pro might be a wise investment, especially if you don't have a graphic designer on staff and are in need of an intuitive and easy-to-use program to help build online and offline marketing materials that include images and video.

Canva Pro also has over 610,000 premium and free templates, over 100 million stock photos, videos, graphics and audio, 100 GB of storage and the ability to schedule social media content to eight different platforms. Talk about bang for your buck!

**Image Hosting/Sharing**

Making memories at your camp is at the heart of what you do for your participants. Documenting all the fun-filled activities, laughter and smiles is easy in the age of hand-held devices and the internet, but sharing those memories with parents and guardians in a safe way can be a bit of a puzzle. Take a look at some great software you can subscribe to that can help you share memories.

+ **SmugMug** - This paid hosting site gives you multiple options for storage, security and more, depending on your needs. It even gives you the ability to add a new revenue stream to your organization if parents choose to purchase print and/or digital images depending on which yearly plan you choose. Each plan comes with unlimited, full-resolution storage, a personalized photo website, detailed privacy and security control, desktop and mobile apps and 24/7 support.

+ **Waldo** - This photo sharing app was specifically built with camps in mind and makes sharing images and video easy while also protecting privacy and being mobile-friendly. Using smart-face-finding technology, this app will notify parents/guardians/staff members when photos of them and their family members are uploaded. There is a business plan available that includes 500GB of cloud storage, a mobile-optimized web gallery, unlimited contributors and more. You can add Photo Finder for an additional fee, which includes automated photo sorting powered by facial recognition and gives you the ability to send photos to families through SMS and app alerts automatically.

## New Equipment

This might seem like a no-brainer, but it's always a great idea to take stock of all your current equipment and see what needs replacing, or even think outside the box and look at new equipment you might not currently have for your staff and your participants to enjoy. This could range from equipment used to play games or create works of art, playground equipment and more! Still need ideas? Ask your staff and participants for ideas for what kind of equipment they would like to see your organization have.

## Add New and Exciting Camps and Programs

There is an array of easy camp-in-a-box solutions out there for you to incorporate into your programming. Here are just a few suggestions to help get you started:

+ **I'm The Chef Too** - Add some science-based learning with cooking to your mini-camp with I'm The Chef Too. This program, created by a former teacher of 10 years, breaks down the steps of cooking for kids and incorporates science-based lessons along the way. Kids enjoy the fruits of their labor while also learning about STEAM-based concepts. Through the world of cooking, children can create, invent, design, engineer and question. Their curiosity is encouraged and rewarded with tasty treats for the whole family. All supplies can be delivered directly to your members' homes if you're hosting a virtual mini-camp.

**Brain Chase** - Adventure awaits with Brain Chase! With both online and offline activities, kids will have a blast with gamified learning. Customized for your needs and white-labeled with your branding, this program contains personalized electives in the form of treasure hunts and escape rooms.

Kids can complete weekly challenges in the electives of your choice, unlock new chapters in the story with new rooms, puzzles and webisodes, and solve mysteries to escape different rooms or find real buried treasure.

**MEL Science** - Ignite a passion for science in your mini-camp via MEL Science! Founded by an award-winning scientist, MEL Science offers kits, webinars and amazing apps just for kids. MEL Science was created to encourage a fascination with chemistry and dive deeper into the why behind how science works. Any child can be a scientist, and MEL Science wants to support and inspire excitement for kids and their families. MEL Science offers one-week and two-week camps based on your curriculum and needs,

and it includes webinars, additional experiments, access to the MEL Chemistry app and a virtual reality cardboard viewer for smartphones. All supplies can be delivered directly to your members' homes if you're hosting a virtual mini-camp.

## Run Your Camps Smoothly With Premier Camp Management Software

At ACTIVE, we help camps across the country stay top of mind among their audiences and grow year after year with seamless, easy-to-use camp management software. Once we learn a bit more about your camp, we can connect you with a software specialist to find the perfect technology for your unique needs. Whether you need day camp registration software to cut down on processing time or a more focused solution to generate revenue, our experts are here for you.

**Get started today** to take your camp to the next level—this year and beyond!

Take your organization to the next level with Camp & Class Manager!

**Contact Us Today!**
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