

Duct Tape Fundraisers – A Sticky Situation

CSDSIP Insight Newsletter | Fall 2019

Fundraising has always been a part of schools across the state. Often times educators, administrators and even parents look for creative ways to fund items not covered in their budget. When schools begin to open the floor for new ideas, sometimes it is difficult to pull back the reins. Gone are the days of bake sales and car washes. Schools are now introducing Duct Tape as a fundraiser.

What is a “Duct Tape Fundraiser”?

First, the event coordinator selects a volunteer to serve as the person being duct taped. Next, they decide how to charge for the event, by charging for lengths of duct tape or just making a set goal amount. Once the goal is met, the volunteer is placed on the step stool with “tapers” on either side. Then using five to ten rolls of duct tape the volunteer is strapped to the wall and the step stool is removed.

Coverage

CSDSIP would consider a duct tape fundraiser a “High Risk Activity”. High Risk Activities are any activities in which a mishap could result in a serious injury or death.

CSDSIP’s School Entity Liability (SEL) Coverage is broad and protects the Members, employees, Board of Education and volunteers while acting within the course and scope of Member sponsored activities. Insurance coverage will be subject to the policy terms and conditions. Although insurance may apply, a High-Risk Activity may present an unwarranted exposure or injury for participants as well as liability exposure for your school or district.

CSDSIP Claim

In 2018, multiple students were duct taped to the wall by a teacher. The teacher pulled out the chairs they were standing on to see how long the students would stay attached to the wall. This resulted in multiple students’ injuries, including a student who broke her wrist. Although this particular activity was not part of a fundraising activity, it is representative of the potential risks and injuries that can result.

Safety Recommendations

- Written waivers/releases with consent to participate are returned to the Member prior to participation. It is important for these waivers to be as specific to the activity as possible.
 - Volunteer consent should be given to allow the Member to seek necessary medical treatment in the event of illness or injury.
- Only allow adult volunteers.
 - This can be considered unlawful restraint on a student.
 - It also can be viewed as bullying or hazing.
- Make sure that your volunteer has on appropriate clothing.
 - A long sleeve shirt and pants to fully cover their skin is highly recommended.
 - Applying duct tape directly to bare skin can cause rashes irritation, redness, and blisters, not to mention pain.
- Make sure your volunteer is not allergic to duct tape.
 - Test your volunteer prior to the event.
 - Consider putting a statement to that fact on your volunteer waiver.
- Make sure the person is held securely to the wall. A fall from several feet can cause your volunteer to sustain injuries ranging from sprains to broken limbs.
 - Have persons positioned on both sides of the volunteer to catch them if they begin to fall.
 - Make sure your volunteer is properly hydrated as it can get quite hot under that amount of duct tape.

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- Never tape anywhere on your volunteer's head, face or neck.
- Prepare for emergencies.
 - Discuss appropriate emergency procedures in case of a medical emergency during the activity.
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- It is strongly recommended that medical personnel be close at hand.

Fundraising can be a great way to supplement lean budgets as long as they are done with a sound risk management approach in mind.