The Purpose of Fundraisers:

4-H fundraisers are meant for the good of the 4-H club or county. Fundraising activities should have an educational component to reinforce experiential learning. Raising funds as a club can help make the program and activities affordable for all involved while creating a bond among the members. It is important to note that raising funds should never become the focus of a club. The 4-H name and logo must be used in an appropriate manner and abide by the federal regulations.

First steps
1. Get approval from 4-H staff
2. Motivate your group – help them understand the importance of the fundraiser
3. Set goals for your fundraiser
4. Advertise! Promote your message - WHY are you raising money?
5. Involve the whole club
6. Advertise!
7. Check community calendars and try to choose appropriate times and methods

Questions to Ask
Will I need a food permit?
Will I need to purchase event insurance?
How do I acknowledge gifts and donations?

Identifying Fiscal Partners
It is a promising idea to reach out to community partners. Organizations who have supported 4-H in the past include FCS Financial, Wal-Mart, Sam’s, grocery stores, United Way, Farm Bureau, banks, local foundation organizations, churches, local service organizations (Kiwanis, Optimists, Jaycees), rural electric cooperatives and Thrivent Action Team Grants.

Keys For Success
Ask early! Have a handout to give them to describe what you are asking for, how it will be used, and that your outcome goals.

It is hard to say ‘NO’ to youth!
When feasible, encourage youth members to request donations and support from community partners.

Traditional Ideas
Bake Sales / Concession Stand
5K run
Letter writing campaign
Whitetails Unlimited Banquet
Pie & Dessert Auction / Chili & Soup Dinner
Carnival with games
Live and Silent Auction
Trivia Night
Ad sales for Livestock Show

Non-Traditional Ideas
Paper clovers
Crowdfunding
Rummage sale
Profit sharing

MFA, Wal-Mart, ADM, banks, grocery stores and gas stations have all been reported as excellent sources of grant and donations.

Tip: plan enough time to request support to their corporate offices.

Let the Youth decide! This involvement increases commitment.