



HOW TO BE AN OARSOME FUNDRAISER

Thank you for raising funds for *Oarsome Chance* through the *Portsmouth Pull*. The money you raise will directly support our programmes for vulnerable young people to expand their skills and confidence.

Here are some top tips to help you to become an Oarsome fundraiser.

The most important thing to do first is to make a fundraising plan now. It's easy following these eight Oarsomely simple steps – don't leave it to the last minute! The sooner you start, the more money you can raise.

1) Make it easy for people to donate

One of the best ways to do this is to set up an online fundraising page complete with photos and a target amount. Oarsome Chance is registered with BT MyDonate, so you can easily set up team and individual sponsorship pages and link them to our account and the Portsmouth Pull event. Simple!

Visit www.btplc.com/mydonate to get started and you'll also find advice on using BT MyDonate portal and handy hints on increasing your donations.

2) Get personal

On your BT MyDonate fundraising page and in messages to supporters explain why you are fundraising for Oarsome Chance. Make sure you also tell people about the wonderful work we do. What is it about Oarsome Chance that inspires you?

Please feel free to use the information provided below and on our website, and don't hesitate to contact us if there's anything else you'd like to know. We've also set up galleries so you can download pictures to use and share:

[Portsmouth Pull images](#)

[Oarsome Chance logo and activities images](#)





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3) Spread the word

Email your fundraising link to friends, family and colleagues, with a personal note asking for their help. If you belong to clubs or societies, you could put a flyer on the club noticeboard or ask them to include it in an ebulletin. Tell people who you are, why you're fundraising and how they can donate. Being well equipped with Oarsome facts will help convince potential supporters to donate and having a clear and straightforward call to action is vital.

4) Keep talking

It's important to keep your supporters updated with your progress. It keeps people involved and builds awareness of Oarsome Chance. Post updates on social media, send personal emails and notes, and let people know how far you are towards reaching your fundraising goal. Always include the fundraising link and remind them to keep spreading the word.

5) Have a word with your boss

Many employers have schemes to match sponsorship money raised with a corporate donation. Ask your manager to support you in this. You could stress the benefits of participation in the Portsmouth Pull – a boost to office morale, teamwork and corporate social responsibility.

6) Get creative with other Oarsome ideas

As well as asking for sponsorship for the rowing itself – perhaps an amount per km – you can raise money in many other ways. Hold a cake sale at work, an open house coffee morning, a used book sale, a custard pie throwing contest, a guess-the-number-of-sweets-in-the-jar competition or a charity auction. The possibilities are only limited by your imagination

7) Gift Aid

Oarsome Chance is a registered charity and participates in the GiftAid scheme. If your supporters are UK tax payers, ask them to ensure they declare this when they make their donation on MyDonate. For every pound you raise, Oarsome Chance can claim 25p from the government, at no extra cost to your supporter.

8) Say thank you

After the event, send a thank you note to your supporters and let them know how you got on. Oarsome Chance appreciates their commitment to disadvantaged young people so please thank them on our behalf too. If they would like to keep up-to-date with news from Oarsome Chance, they can sign up to our newsletter <http://eepurl.com/dkXCBL>



DON'T FORGET, THE TEAM THAT RAISES THE MOST WINS A SPECIAL PRIZE!



OARSOME FACTS ABOUT OARSOME CHANCE

Use some or all of these Oarsome facts and figures to demonstrate to your supporters why *Oarsome Chance* is such a great cause for you and them to be supporting. Feel free to put them into your own words.

This is what Oarsome Chance is all about...

- Works to bring about change for disadvantaged young people using mix of sport (coastal and dry rowing) and vocational training (boat building, carpentry and canvas skills).
- Launched in 2015 and focuses on young people aged from 9 to 19, who are disengaged from mainstream education and at risk of exclusion
- Operates in some of England's most deprived areas
- Funded primarily by private donations, commissioning and with additional support from grants
- Three skiffs - including Little Warrior and Little Victory - built by Oarsome Chance's young people will be used in the Portsmouth Pull.
- Appointed by local authority behavioural services team and school alternative provision commissions to work with vulnerable and at-risk children.

This what Oarsome Chance has achieved to date...

- **3 skiffs** built by young people
- **100s** of paddles and oars made
- **1,200** hours of indoor rowing time
- **1000s** of hours on the water
- More than **1,500** young people engaged
- **95%** attendance rates, versus 25% school attendance rates
- Clear improvements in behaviour

This is how Oarsome Chance will use your Portsmouth Pull sponsorship...

- **£10** will buy...safety boat fuel for an hour's rowing session on the water
- **£100** will buy...wet weather jackets for a skiff crew
- **£1,000** will fund... a shipwright lecturer for an 8-week course for 8 students
- **£10,000** will fund...bursaries for 8 students for a year's vocational training towards an Open Awards qualification.



Thanks again for your support. It makes a huge difference to the work we are able to do.
Good luck with your fundraising!

