



CREATING A YOUTH TEAM

What is Extra Life?

Extra Life unites thousands of gamers around the world to play games in support of their local Children's Miracle Network Hospital (CMN Hospital). Since its inception in 2008, Extra Life has raised more than \$50 million for local CMN Hospitals. In the Dallas area, Extra Life participants play to support the patients treated at Children's HealthSM.

In addition to what you would consider "typical gaming," Extra life can take the shape of a bowling tournament, ping pong tournament, Home Run Derby and so much more. Best of all, Extra Life is a wonderful opportunity for your student to earn service hours. It creates a platform for students to have fun and make an impact at your local CMN Hospital, Children's Health.

Extra Life is an opportunity for a School, PTA or Youth Group to:

- Enhance student resumes by gaining volunteer service hours through gaming. A letter verifying community service is provided to the parent/teacher for the students.
- Encourage student community involvement and social responsibility.
- Support families whose lives have been touched by Children's Health

Where to start?

Designate an Extra Life liaison or "Team Captain" to be the point person for your Extra Life event. They can be a Student Advisor, Teacher Sponsor, PTA member or parent. The person you designate will help set up the event, coordinate teams and communicate with the Children's Health Program Director.

Create your team(s):

- Sign up at extra-life.org and create your team(s). You can create one team for the entire school or break up the teams by grade level, student groups etc.
- Select Children's Health as your local Children's Miracle Network Hospital.
- Decide if students will join the team online or offline.
 - Online: Students visit your team's page and click "Join our Team." This allows students to have their own fundraising page to share with friends and family.
 - Offline: Use an Excel Sheet to track student participation. The student name, email address (student or parent) and funds raised need to be included on this document.
- Raise funds for Children's Health
- Have fun!



Planning your Extra Life Event:

Your Extra Life event does not have to be on the national game day to participate! Pick a date that works best and customize the event to fit your group. Don't worry, events do not have to be 24 consecutive hours; they can be spread throughout the year to reach a total of 24 hours played for Children's HealthSM. Here are some tips and ideas for successful youth events:

- Connect your students to the mission. Share information from Children's Health to show the impact of your fundraising dollars.
- Create a student committee to encourage engagement and a sense of ownership over the event
- Host monthly gaming events with board games and video games for two to three hours for students who raised money. If students will not be fundraising, a \$1 "fee" or other designated amount can be charged per meeting and go towards the school's fundraising goal.
- If students will be tracked offline or will not be fundraising, set an amount for the students to participate in game day. This fee will be how funds are raised for the youth team.
- If students join your team online, encourage them to share their personal fundraising page with friends and family. Some youth groups have special prizes day-of for participants who hit certain fundraising levels. Be creative.
- A game day can consist of console/video games, table top games and sports games. Consider setting up an area for each type of game play on the day of your event. Be sure to think about the resources needed for each game i.e. consoles, controllers, projectors, TVs, computers, etc.
- Have pre-fundraiser events to boost excitement. Encourage creative thinking and competition by organizing smaller fundraisers. Host a casual jeans day for \$5 or have a bake-off.
- Get your local PTA or other parent group involved to help students fundraise.

SIGN UP YOUR TEAM AND BEGIN RAISING FUNDS!

For more information or additional resources, please contact your local Extra Life Program Director Marcie Long at marcie.long@childrens.com.



**BE A
HERO**
**PLAY GAMES,
HEAL KIDS.**

