

100+ AUCTION TIPS AND IDEAS

Getaways and Unusual Experiences

1. Week or weekend at a north woods cabin or a lake cottage (anything from rustic to luxury). The high bidder may be able to water ski, fish, cross country ski, etc.
2. A week at a condo in Colorado, Montana, Florida, etc.
3. Golf-getaway including week/weekend golf passes at a renowned course, hotel, dinners, car rental
4. A behind-the-scenes tour at sports venue, museum, theatre, newspaper, television station, manufacturer, recording studio, etc.
5. Guided fishing trip at nearby fishing destination (could also include gear for the day, transportation, breakfast and lunch). Guide could be someone from your organization, a well-known local guide, or a TV personality.
6. Helicopter sightseeing tour of a city
7. Hot air balloon ride
8. Airline tickets to any domestic (or world) destination
9. Tickets to a talk show (Oprah, Dr. Phil, David Letterman, Jay Leno). Make the package even more enticing with airfare, hotel and dinner at a famous restaurant.
10. A weekend at a cozy bed and breakfast
11. A weekend at a well-known local (within driving distance) resort. Try to include in the package some of the amenities offered by the resort (such as a ski or golf pass), along with dinner for at least one of the nights.
12. Private screening of upcoming independent movie at local theatre with five friends and local movie critic
13. Go "on assignment" with a local TV reporter or videographer
14. Be a DJ/host for a day at a local radio station
15. Round-trip airfare to an exotic or romantic destination along with a week stay at a rustic cabin, old castle turned into hotel or beach cottage
16. Day on the farm: group of kids or a family go to a local farm and milk cows, get a hay ride, have a bonfire, ride a tractor, etc.
17. A trip to a city during the festival/event that makes it famous (Cannes Film Festival, Mardi Gras, Oktoberfest, Cherry Blossom Festival)
18. A getaway item which represents the "theme" of the auction. For example, "Passport to Paris" offered a weekend at the Paris Hotel in Las Vegas (included hotel, show tickets and dinner).
19. A day in a local tourist/scenic town. Include visits to attractions (winery, museum, historic site), a glider ride to view the scenery, lunch and/or dinner in town and an overnight at a local bed and breakfast.
20. Weekend of sailing with overnight stay in cabin on boat
21. Spend a day with the dolphin trainer at the Minnesota Zoo
22. California Winery Tour
23. Family vacation for four to Disneyworld
24. Family vacation at a local (within driving distance), family-oriented resort
25. Children's Adventure Pack: a set of day passes to local attractions such as the Minnesota Zoo, the IMAX, the Science Museum, Underwater Adventures, etc.
26. Getaway weekend in New York City. Could include airfare, hotel, tickets to a

Broadway show, dinner at a well-reviewed restaurant, carriage ride around Central Park etc.

27. Tickets for a group of to a theatre or Broadway production or symphony concert. Add on: catered dinner backstage before the show or a backstage tour

28. A “ride-along” with a local police officer or firefighter

29. Trip to a major sporting event (Masters, Super Bowl, World Series, Daytona 500), including event tickets, airfare, hotel and car rental

30. Limousine for an evening, paired with a dinner gift certificate and bottle of champagne

31. Use of an RV or motor home for one week, including “x” number of miles and gas

32. Themed party at home of a well-liked supporter for “x” number of people: fondue night, “tailgate” grill-out, pool party, spa day, casino night, Chinese New Year

33. A cocktail party or drinks with “x” – someone well-known and respected within your organization

34. Lunch or dinner with a local celebrity, mayor, governor, etc.

35. Walk-on part in a TV show or theatrical production

36. Paddleboat ride on local waterway with group of friends

37. A romantic afternoon/evening of boating on a local lake.

Add on: a catered picnic, lunch or dinner prepared by your captain/host

38. Tickets to a sold-out concert, plus dinner before

39. A cruise on a local lake for a large group of people.

Perfect for corporate attendees looking for something to do with their team!

40. Mississippi River boat captain for a day plus dinner for two in the pilot’s house

41. A private concert by a local musician or ensemble.

42. A tour of a local recording studio – including a short recording session

43. An afternoon in a Northwest Airlines flight simulator

44. An “insiders” tour of a famous U.S. city (such as Washington D.C.).

45. Wine and hors d’oeuvres at the studio of local artist

46. A ride for two in an antique car (horse-drawn carriage, etc) to your favorite picnic spot – picnic provided!

47. Day/evening out in your town: include dinner, tickets to a show or local attraction and an overnight stay

48. A lodge-to-lodge bike trip (in California, southern France, Tuscany.....)

49. Trip to a “big” out-of-town concert, including air and hotel

50. Have a local celebrity spend the afternoon doing his/her favorite hobby with the winning bidder – whether or not it’s what he/she is famous for! (bike riding, baking, shopping, visiting art galleries)

51. “American Girl” getaway: Amtrak tickets to Chicago, lunch at the American Girl Café, plus a shopping spree at American Girl

52. A sailing trip on a regional or local lake/waterway. Can be one afternoon or several days.

53. A day on the set for a movie or television show, including lunch with the cast and crews. Could be even take place locally if they are filming in your area.

54. Sunset cruise on a local lake, with appetizers and cocktails or dinner

55. One week in a condo anywhere in the world

56. Front row seats to a sold out concert. Add in a pre- or post-concert dinner and limo service for a complete package.

57. Private outdoor movie showing in your backyard

58. Private airplane ride with a stop for dinner or lunch

SPECIAL NOTE

For any getaway, airfare is a nice addition but is not required. Airfare may increase the final bid, but not as much as adding a unique “experience” as part of the getaway: a private tour of a local winery, dinner at the chef’s table of a famous restaurant, getting to meet a celebrity, etc.

Personal Enrichment

1. A series of painting, knitting, pottery, beading, or scrapbooking classes
2. Learn to bake elaborate cakes and pastries with notable pastry chef
3. Ask a local author to meet with a book club
4. Language lessons at a local school or cultural institute. For an even more exciting item, pair this with a trip to the featured country!
5. Music lessons or a one-time session with a local musician
6. A recording session at a local studio – complete with a CD
7. Learn to play a card game/poker with a local “expert”
8. Learn to sail/parasail/sky jump with an expert trainer
9. Horseback riding lessons for the whole family
10. Six months of ballroom, jazz, tap, country dancing lessons
11. A psychic reading or astrological chart
12. Hypnotherapy session: learn how to hypnotize or be hypnotized

Special Indulgences

1. Massage and/or massage lesson certificates
2. Certificate for a handmade/specially designed piece of jewelry, art, clothing
3. Personal trainer for six (more/less) months
4. Gym membership for six (more/less) months
5. One year membership at a pool & yacht club
6. Flower arrangement each month for a year, delivered to your home
7. Spa day for one or a small group of friends
8. One-year lease on a classic car or the car that is “hot” right now. Add on gift cards for gas, car washes, etc.
9. One-year lease on a Harley Davidson motorcycle
10. Grocery delivery service such as Simon Delivers for a specified period of time
11. Holiday child care: you shop or enjoy the holiday sights for an afternoon while your children are babysat and provided lots of fun games, snacks and activities.
12. Dog-sitting for a weekend or week away
13. Have an orthodontist or dentist donate \$1000 of service.
14. Professional portrait of individual, family or pet
15. Butler or maid service for a specified period of time (could include errand running, housecleaning, cooking, babysitting, etc.)
16. String of pearls, diamond earrings, diamond ring or loose diamond
17. Shopping spree at a local boutique (up to “X” dollars)

18. Cable TV (including premium channels) for a year
19. A large-screen plasma television plus a year of movie rentals
20. A hot tub or whirlpool
21. Gift certificate for a custom-made evening gown or suit
22. A head-to-toe makeover: spa day (hair, massage, makeup), fashion consultation, shopping spree at a local boutique.
23. A gift basket with the latest electronic item – plus all the accessories and a gift card for music, movies or games (iPod, Wii, etc.)
24. Lasik eye surgery
25. Personal shopper spends a day with winner

Food, Food and More Food

1. High bidder gets a home-cooked meal delivered once a month for a year. Include beverages/wine and dessert for complete package! Make it truly Minnesotan and give a “hot dish a month” for a year.
2. An indulgent dessert-a-month for one year (donated by a local bakery or someone within your organization who loves to bake or various committee members – regardless of whether they are great bakers or not!)
3. Fresh-baked bread every month for one year (donated by a local bakery or someone within your organization who loves to bake)
4. A basket of wine (8-12 bottles), perhaps focused on a specific type or region (Taste of California, Bold Bordeaux, Awesome Aussies). Could come from a local winery, a specialty wine shop or be donated by several wine stores. “Upgrade” the basket by including some Riedel wine glasses, a quality corkscrew, etc.
5. A basket themed around an indulgent food – like chocolate. Individuals (the board, volunteers, committee) each contribute one of their favorite candy bars, box of chocolates, hot chocolate mix, etc. The idea is to be over the top!
6. The high bidder will receive a progressive dinner for “x” number of people donated by several families
7. Have the chef who prepared the event meal donate dinner for “x” number of people, prepared in the winner’s home.
8. A super-size piece of candy from a local company (for example, a 100 lb Pearson’s Nut Goodie)
9. Dinner for two at a new, critically acclaimed restaurant. Pair with concert tickets and a hotel overnight for a romantic evening out.
10. A cooking class for a group of ten with a local restaurant chef or cooking teacher
11. Dinner for four at a neighborhood restaurant, accompanied by the food critic from the local newspaper
12. Lunch, brunch or dinner for ten prepared by a well-liked personality within your organization (superintendent, teacher, executive director, president of the board)
13. Instant wine cellar: 25+ bottles of wine and a wine cooler or wine rack. A variation could be a beer lover’s cellar.
14. Private wine tasting for a small group at a local winery, wine shop or in winner’s home
15. A pig roast hosted by the local barbeque expert. See if a local meat market will donate the pig.

16. Breakfast with the pastor, principle, rabbi, etc.
17. A chocolate and wine pairing event for “x” people
18. A summer “Garden Party” dinner for 8. Dinner can be prepared by the host or be catered.
19. Latte (or other coffee drink) a week for a year
20. A private cocktail party at a local hot spot – including appetizers and open bar for two hours.
21. Wine or beer for a year. Can be given all at once, or delivered once-a-month for the year.
22. A side of beef or whole hog plus processing

Sport and Recreation Fun

1. Two hours of consultation from a local fishing guide or professional fisherman
2. Tickets to a local college/university or professional game (hockey, football, basketball). Add in some jerseys or an autographed football/basketball for even better bidding. If the game is out of town, a package might also include lodging and transportation to the game city.
3. Use of a suite at a professional football, basketball, baseball, hockey game
4. Golf package: foursome of golf at a private club. Extras could include cart rental and lunch or dinner following round.
5. A foursome of golf with a well-respected person within your organization or a celebrity
6. A trip to a NASCAR race, complete with a tour of the garages
7. A dog sledding trip, either one day or from lodge to lodge
8. A clinic or private “lesson” with a professional athlete or coach
9. Day at a car racing school for an individual or group of friends
10. A fishing trip for “x” in Canada
11. Autographed jerseys, balls, bats, etc.
12. Day of duck or pheasant hunting, fly fishing, ice fishing, etc. with a member of your organization or local guide.
13. Set of custom golf clubs and lessons from a pro
14. A camping package: tent, sleeping bags, stove, chairs, lanterns
15. An ATV (*note: may require an age minimum)
16. A high-quality (racing) bike
17. Throw out the first pitch at a Twins’ or Saints’ game
18. A tailgating party for up to “x” people at a local game. Don’t forget tickets to the game!
19. Pool or game table
20. Tickets to a college or professional baseball, football, hockey, etc. game – but out of town.
21. A trip to the “fantasy” camp of a local sports team
22. The opportunity to for your team to play on a professional field for three hours
23. Dinner in the owners suite at a professional sports game
24. A child gets to be the honorary bat boy/girl for a professional baseball team.
25. Front row or best in the house seats at a sporting game
26. Meet and greet with the coach/players of a sports team
27. Day-long guided canoe trip on a local river, including lunch

28. Bike ride around town with a professional rider (or local celebrity) – showcasing his/her favorite places to ride
29. Weekend bird hunt at local (or not so local) lodge

Home Sweet Home

1. A nice piece of antique furniture. Must be a true antique.
2. A gift certificate for furniture refinishing
3. Custom-made quilt (winner works with maker to choose colors, fabrics, design)
4. Gift certificate to home appliance store (\$500 minimum)
5. Certificate for “x” number of hours of labor by master electrician (plumber, carpenter, etc.)
6. A group of handymen/women agree to be a “construction crew for a day” at your home (to help with home building or repair)
7. Spring clean-up package. Rake, paint, plant flowers, wash windows and then end the day by grilling brats or kabobs for the high bidder.
8. Makeover of a room in your house by a professional decorator or talented individuals in your organization
9. Housecleaning—by a professional or volunteer—either for a period of time or one big spring or fall cleaning
10. Use of a backhoe/dozer for a day. Add on: delivery of dirt, gravel, mulch, etc. or a gift certificate to a local do-it-yourself home center or greenhouse
11. Pool table
12. Certificate for professional remodeling or landscaping. Depending on project, you could pair with other items: for a new deck, add a grill; a backyard landscape, add a garden bench; a kitchen remodel add a new appliance.
13. Professional-grade outdoor grill
14. Riding lawn mower or snow blower
15. House painting
16. Backyard play equipment (playhouse, tree house, etc) delivered and installed
17. A piece of art made by a celebrity or by a well-know or respected person within your organization
18. A private “Antiques Road Show”: an appraiser (or group of appraisers) will come to the winner’s home for an hour to appraise those special pieces
19. Handmade garden arbor/trellis or lawn sculpture.
20. Local painter paints a mural in a child’s bedroom
21. Handmade table setting
22. Kitchen or bathroom redesign, including design services and gift certificate(s) to an appliance store and home center
23. New countertops installed in your kitchen

Just for Fun

1. Private fireworks display for a special occasion
2. Private movie screening for you and 99 friends at a local cinema, including popcorn and soft drinks.
3. A song written in your honor
4. The high bidder gets all of the Christmas lights they want put up. Donated by Mr. and Mrs. “X.”
Make it a complete holiday package by including other house

decorating, 24 dozen Christmas cookies, a day of gift wrapping and carolers at the door.

5. The auction committee puts up all of your outdoor holiday decorations – and includes \$XXX of additional greenery or decorations.

6. The winner's holiday cards will all be addressed, sealed and stamped OR

7. All of the winner's holiday packages will be wrapped OR

8. All of the winner's holiday decorations will be taken DOWN and put away OR

9. All of the winner's Christmas cookies will be baked

10. Have your car cleaned and washed throughout the year by the "X" family.

11. Have a mechanic donate a free tow, flat tire repair, oil change, etc.

12. "Tool Time" basket: have a bucket filled with new power tools, hand tools, duct tape, WD-40, nails, screws, etc. Can be geared either to men or women

13. Family Fun package: fill a basket or large tub with classic games, movies or Blockbuster gift certificates, pizza gift certificates, microwave popcorn, movie size candy and a big blanket.

14. A computer with a special feature or software (for example, a video-making package). An add-on could be installation and lessons on how to use the software.

15. "Guys Night Out": your host will provide everything needed for 10 guys to enjoy a great night of fun: food, beverages, cards and poker chips, cigars, big screen TV, etc.

16. "Ladies Night Out": your hostess will provide everything needed for 10 ladies to enjoy a great night of fun! Or, see if a local spa will donate a gift certificate that a small group can share and pair it with a limo ride and lunch at a local bistro.

17. Work with a local author to include the winning bidder's name in an upcoming book.

18. Auction off the wallet/purse of the executive director, principle, board president, etc.

19. Parent getaway: a weekend night at a local hotel, including dinner – plus babysitting for the kids!

20. Has someone in your organization invented something or hold a patent? Ask him/her if he/she would be willing to donate one to the auction!

21. Celebrity signed items – from musicians, chefs, sports figures, etc.

22. A basket or item unique to your organization – what can only you offer?

23. The director of an animal-based organization offers to personally do one year of pet grooming for the winner.

24. A famous local mascot makes an appearance at your birthday bash.

25. Custom-painted portrait or photograph of someone or someplace special.