



Student Challenge Teams – 5 Ways to Help Pay for your Trip to Conference!

The 2nd Annual Student Challenge competition is warming up and teams are forming. Here are five easy ways to beat the cost of travel, hotel and food.

1. Conduct fundraisers. An auction is an easy fundraiser. The Iowa State University turf students are hosting an auction to raise money to send their team to the conference. The ISU students created a strong package of auction items including four tickets to the ISU and Kansas State football game. They received them at no charge from the university by following the institution's application process. Check with your college or university to see if it offers a similar opportunity. If it does not, ask alumni or a professor to donate a pair of their tickets, a practice that the Ohio State University turf students have found successful for their auction.
2. Contact your college or universities Student Services to see if it has any mechanism to fund a trip for your student organization.
3. Contact your local STMA chapter. Present your need to the chapter. Explain the importance of sending a team to the annual STMA conference. Each STMA chapter has \$500 in funding from STMA that can be used for funding a student challenge team if the chapter hasn't earmarked it for other approved uses such as bringing in an educational speaker. Volunteer to help provide manpower for your chapter's field day, charitable event or other gathering in exchange for their financial support.
4. Be a SAFE (The Foundation for Safer Athletic Field Environments) scholarship winner. SAFE is STMA's charitable arm. Wining students receive a \$500 stipend towards travel or hotel. Last year STMA awarded more than \$18,000 in scholarship and education related travel expenses.
5. Ask local businesses in the green industry to help support your team's trip. Be sure to make a presentation in writing, citing the importance of sending a team to the STMA conference. Show the conference brochure to the business and point out that the team will share their learning experiences with their peers at school.
6. Mom, dad ... ask them to contribute to your conference fund in lieu of a birthday or holiday gift.