



CHOCOLATE



CHOCOLATE Need We Say More?

Let's face it! ANY Event is better with chocolate...a party, a dinner, a class (a bath!) Here's a chocolate event with a "blast from the past."



Our first idea is a time tested winner with a vintage twist. Back in the day, fondue parties were all the rage. Appetizers and main course items were dipped in cheese or oil, and dessert was a luscious creamy chocolate sauce heated in a pot warmed by Sterno. Bananas, strawberries, biscuits - you name it, we dipped it. **Why not bring that back with a "70's (or 80's) Styled Fondue Party?"**

Now we know what you're thinking: who has a fondue pot these days? To be honest, LOTS of us! Put the call out to your members. You may want to consider getting a local caterer or chocolate shop to donate a chocolate fountain. These have become popular everywhere.

Next, get out those old photos of you (or your parents) from the days of disco. Invite everyone to dress up in their John Travolta "Fever" gear or (we know some of you have them) that dress with the BIG shoulder pads. Speaking of big, don't forget the hair! For the guys, fashion a Fu Manchu mustache or those mutton chop sideburns (costume shops can help) and get ready to have a BIG night.

Set the event with tasting stations, each with a different theme using many different "dipping" items. If there some local specialty that you thought would taste great smothered in chocolate, now's the time to try it. Offer prizes for the most unusual "dipping item" or the best costume. And, if space and time permits, download some Bee Gees or Donna Summers on an iPod, install the disco ball, and dance off some of the chocolate! How about a prize for that?

How do we make money on this event?

- Charge admission
- Raffle gift certificates for a fondue pot, or something from a chocolate shop or supplier
- Secure sponsorship for the event from local kitchen shops, chocolate shops or tearooms
- Hold an auction at the event for something vintage or something chocolate
- Elicit donations from participants - be sure to have the Backing Women Project Brochure on hand if this is the charity chosen as the fun-raising recipient
- Consider including the donation form along with the publicity in your newsletter about this event. You might receive donations from those not able to attend.

Some of the things to consider when organizing this event:

- ✓ The venue is all important - a kitchen is required; the event will need to be held at a clubhouse, local school or a member's home. If you are using Sterno pots, be aware of safety standards.
- ✓ Solicit chocolate-loving volunteers for your committee. If they enjoy cooking, ask them to help prepare for this event. If they have to purchase any items for the evening, ask for a donation or "best price". Be sure to acknowledge it on the night or as your club deems appropriate.
- ✓ Brochette sticks for dipping, lots of napkins are a must.
- ✓ Volunteers to decorate the venue in "the period." This will get everyone in the mood. Music is great, or perhaps run an old movie or TV show (silently) in the background.

You can find other fundraising ideas in your Backing Women Toolkit and at www.fawcofoundation.com.

HAVE A GREAT EVENT!