

Fundraising at SAMS

Fundraising FAQs: External



Frequently Asked Questions: Fundraising

A healthier ocean, a stronger planet

By creating a healthier ocean, we can tackle some of the most urgent and complex issues facing humankind, such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, and providing sustainable resources for our growing population.

Our research informs and enables; providing a foundation of knowledge that facilitates collaborative solutions-focused action in tackling these challenges head-on.

Your support will enable researchers and scientists at SAMS to do even more but critically, even faster; unlocking the incredible power of the seas and enabling us to protect our ocean, for people, and for planet.

[Why does SAMS need donations?](#)

The truth is, we simply can't do this alone.

Collecting data from the ocean is costly, often dangerous, but with enormous potential to provide environmental stability for future generations, it's absolutely crucial. SAMS has been an independent organisation since the beginning, and as a Scottish Registered Charity (no. SC009206) we rely on funding and donations to deliver our vital research.

[How can I donate to SAMS?](#)

No matter how big or small of a donation you would like to give to SAMS, it will always be greatly appreciated.

You could give a small one-off donation or set up a monthly recurring donation **online**. Or set up a **fundraising page** and do an exciting personal challenge to raise funds.

You could consider making donations as part of celebration, to remember a loved one, or by leaving SAMS a gift in your Will.

If you want to help us, but you're not sure how, send us an email to fundraising@sams.ac.uk and we can talk you through some of the options that would work best for you.

[How does SAMS use our donations?](#)

We will use people's generosity to gain better understanding of how the marine environment works. From trying to work out how and why the oceans are changing, to looking at how we can use them to help mankind tackle urgent and complex issues, such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, and providing sustainable resources for an ever-growing human population.

Find out more about our projects **here**.

[What is Gift Aid?](#)

If you're a UK taxpayer, Gift Aid is a government scheme that increases the value of your charity donations by 25%. We can reclaim the basic rate of tax from HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) on your gift to SAMS at NO EXTRA COST to you. This means for every £1 you give, we will receive £1.25, making your donations go further!

[How can I find out more how SAMS fundraises?](#)

our organisational mission, values and beneficiaries.

All our fundraising is guided by the **Code of Fundraising Practice**, and the standards expected by The **Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)** and the **Scottish Fundraising Adjudication Panel**.

[What do I need to be able to fundraise for SAMS?](#)

Enthusiasm, ideas and a passion for changing the world are a very good start! However, depending on how you want to fundraise, there may be other things you need too.

- **If you're considering an individual, community group or school doing a private collection or a fundraising event**, contact us with details of your activity, when and where it will take place and also your full name and address and a contact number. We will then send you a **letter of authority** on headed paper giving you permission to fundraise on our behalf.
- **If you're planning a raffle or a prize draw**, you may need to contact your local authority to obtain a **licence**.
- **If you're a small business or independent trader** and you'd like to donate a set or percentage of goods sold, you'll need to be in a **commercial participation** agreement with us.
- **If you're a company** fundraising for us but looking to do some cross-promotion, you'll need to get in touch so we have an appropriate **agreement** in place.

This enables us to keep track of all the fundraising events taking place for the Charity, but it also protects you as we can reassure people that you are genuinely fundraising for us.

Download our free **fundraising guide** and read the **Code of Fundraising Practice** to keep your fundraising safe and legal. And contact us on fundraising@sams.ac.uk if you still have queries.

[Can I still fundraise for SAMS during the COVID-19 pandemic?](#)

Of course you can. In fact, there have been some AMAZING fundraising efforts during the pandemic.

However, you may need to do things slightly differently depending on the current and changing guidelines, and it's important you check anything which is specific to your local area. Bear in mind that everybody is different, and like with all fundraising, never make people do anything they don't want to.

There are lots of great things you can do from home, on your own or in small groups, so you should be able to find a fundraiser that's right for you. Download our **fundraising guide** for ideas.

[I want to do an epic challenge to support SAMS – will you cover my fees and expenses?](#)

Unfortunately we are not able to pay for entry fees. From time to time, we may have charity places available for national charity events, so it's worth checking the **Support Us** section of our website from time to time.

Some fundraising sites allow you to pay for your place through the funds you raise, but you *must* be clear to your sponsors that this is the case.

It can sometimes be that the challenge costs more than the amount of money raised. Under these circumstances it would be unlikely that we would give you authorisation to do it using SAMS' name.

[Can I hold a fundraising event for SAMS?](#)

Yes! From bake sales in the workplace to fetes at the local village hall, events can be a great way to raise funds for your favourite charities, but the key is all in the planning.

Organising your own charity event can take a lot of time and preparation, and depending on what you plan to do, there will be different things to consider. Some of these prompts might help:

- What will you set your fundraising target and your event budget at?
- Have you requested your **letter of authority** from us?

- What permissions, licenses, insurances etc do you need?
- Have you done a risk assessment to keep people safe?
- How will you promote the event to encourage people to get involved or donate?
- How do you plan to collect donations and make it clear to donors about how much will be donated from the event?

We're here to help! Don't forget to let us know what you're up to by emailing fundraising@sams.ac.uk and download our **fundraising guide** for ideas and tips on safe fundraising.

Make sure to check out the guidance in the **Code of Fundraising Practice**. Please note that SAMS cannot provide liability insurance for anyone raising money for us.

[Do SAMS provide prizes for raffles and competitions?](#)

As a registered charity, we have very lean resources and we're unable to provide items for prizes or competitions. You can purchase SAMS t-shirts and other items via our **online shop** - with the added benefit that your purchases will also be supporting us! Or if you're local, pop into the Ocean Explorer Centre and check out the goodies in our shop.

[What do I get once I've paid in the money I've raised?](#)

Once you've paid in your fundraising, we'll send you a letter of thanks to show appreciation for all your kind efforts and support. We'll also include a certificate to show how much you've raised and how brilliant you are helping us create a healthier ocean for a stronger planet!

[Can I donate in memory of a loved one?](#)

Donating to help the future of the planet is a wonderful way of celebrating the life of a loved – particularly if they had a love for the environment or for the seas.

Whether you're considering funeral collection, or simply want to make a donation, just let us know and we'll support you in whatever way you need.

[How can I fundraise to celebrate a special occasion?](#)

Whether it's a birthday, a wedding or other milestone moment, we'd love to celebrate with you and add a bit of SAMS sparkle to your special occasion.

For birthday fundraising setting up a social media or crowdfunding page is a quick and easy way for your loved ones to donate to your chosen charity in lieu of presents. For weddings, we can point you in the direction of environmentally-friendly favours for your guests, which encourage them to donate.

[Can I donate items to SAMS, either to keep or to raffle off?](#)

The SAMS Library welcomes donations of monographic, periodical or audio-visual material that may enhance our current collections and provide researchers with a more comprehensive selection of items.

It's exceptionally rare we can accept objects for a publicly displayed collection, and the library reserves the right to dispose of any material not admitted into stock, in an appropriate manner.

Email Julie on fundraising@sams.ac.uk and we'll invite you to SAMS to discuss this further.