

IUP Philanthropy Cup 2026

Competition Overview

Dates: November 9-20, 2026

Hosted by: the Office of Annual Giving and the Student Giving Committee

Purpose: Raise awareness of student philanthropy, support the Student Assistance Fund, encourage giving, and inspire creative fundraising.

About the Student Assistance Fund

Created during the pandemic and originally supported by federal emergency relief, the Student Assistance Fund now relies fully on private donations from students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends. The fund provides critical support for students experiencing financial hardships by helping with:

- Removing financial holds on student accounts
- Purchasing groceries or textbooks
- Addressing urgent needs affecting academic success

Eligibility Requirements

To participate in the IUP Philanthropy Cup, organizations must:

- Be a recognized IUP student organization.
 - Have one of the following:
 - A Foundation for IUP fund
 - A Central Treasury Account through the Student Cooperative Association (Co-op).
- *if you are unsure if you have either account, or would like to check the eligibility of your account, please contact <mailto:iup-giving@iup.edu>*

Registration

- Registration deadline: October 23, 2026
- Registration link: [IUP Philanthropy Cup Sign Up Form – Fill out form](#)
- Informational meeting details distributed after registration closes.

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- Registration is required to participate in the competition and receive competition communications.

Gift Guidelines

- Only gifts made by current IUP students will count toward competition scoring.
- All donations must be processed through one of the following approved methods:
 - The official IUP Giving Form: www.iup.edu/studentgifts
 - An approved cash collection process coordinated through the Office of Annual Giving (see next section).

Gifts collected through any other method will not be counted toward competition totals.

Approved QR Codes for Online Student Gift Form



Collecting Cash Gifts

Organizations wishing to collect cash donations must meet with **Alexa Zacek**, *Annual Giving Coordinator*, before their fundraiser to:

- Receive required training
- Obtain approved collection materials
- Learn proper cash-handling and submission procedures

Email azacek@iup.edu to schedule a meeting.

Failure to follow approved cash collection procedures may result in gifts being ineligible for competition credit.

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Required Participation Activities

To remain eligible for competition awards, prize funding, and participation awards, organizations must complete all of the following requirements.

- **Attend the Informational Meeting**
 - At least one representative from the organization must attend.
 - Competition rules, scoring, submission requirements, fundraising procedures, and timelines will be reviewed.
- **Host a Fundraising Event**
 - Organizations must host at least one fundraising event benefiting the Student Assistance Fund.
 - Organizations are responsible for all event planning, space reservations, approvals, and required paperwork.
- **Participate in the Office of Annual Giving Fundraiser**
 - Details will be provided during the informational meeting.
- **Submit a Donor Thank-You Message**
 - May be submitted as a video, note, letter, or other approved format.
- **Complete the Post-Competition Survey**
 - Required to help improve future Philanthropy Cup competitions.

Additional Required Participation Activities (*Choose Two*)

1. At your fundraising event have on display Office of Annual Giving materials / flyers.
 - The Office of Annual Giving will have these items prepared for you, however you are responsible for picking them up and returning them if necessary.
2. Submit a reflection of your organization's experience, including what went well, what you wish had been different about the competition, and any additional thoughts.
 - The reflection must be at least 500 words.
3. Submit a group Thank You message to all students that participated in the competition as donors and/or hosting organizations.

Point System

- Complete all participation requirements: +100
- Individual gifts: +10 per gift

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- Dollars raised: +1 per dollar
- 100% member participation: +100

Example:

A \$25 gift earns: 10 points for the gift + 25 points for dollars raised = 35 total points

Bonus Point Opportunities

- Most first-time donors: +50
- Thank-you poster submission: +100
- Impact stories: +25 each, up to 25 stories
 - Share your impact story (Have you been positively impacted by a campus resource, faculty member, staff member, peer, scholarship, or other IUP support system?).
- Additional fundraising event benefiting the Student Assistance Fund: +50 each
- Collaboration with another IUP organization: +50 (awarded to each organization)

****Definitions are on the final page of this document.***

Awards & Recognition

Each competitive award recognizes 1st Place, 2nd Place, and 3rd Place for a total of nine competitive placements.

- **IUP Philanthropy Cup Champion:** awarded based on overall points earned.
- **Spirit of Giving Award:** awarded to the organization with the most donors.
- **Dollars for Impact Award:** awarded to the organization raising the most dollars.

Special Recognitions: Most Creative Fundraiser, 100% Member Participation, Best New Fundraiser Idea, Community Awareness Partner

Special Recognition Awards will be selected by representatives from the Office of Annual Giving.

Prizes & Participation Awards

- 2026 prize amounts announced closer to competition.
- Maximum prize amount per organization: \$1,000.

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- Participation awards are given to all participating student organizations that complete all Required Participation Activities and two Additional Required Participation Activities.

Submission Information

- All competition materials, photos, videos, reflections, impact stories, and required submissions must be uploaded through the [Philanthropy Cup 2026 Upload Form](#).
- Late or incomplete submissions may not be eligible for points or awards.

Competition Administration

- The Office of Annual Giving reserves the right to interpret competition rules, determine eligibility, verify submissions, and resolve scoring disputes.
- If a tie occurs, the Office of Annual Giving will determine the tiebreaking process and final placement.

Frequently Asked Questions and **Definitions** can be found on the next two pages.

Any questions, comments, or concerns should be directed to Alexa Zacek, Annual Giving Coordinator.

- Email: azacek@iup.edu
- Office: Sutton 438
- Phone: 724-357-5555

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Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Do we have to attend the informational meeting?**
 - a. Yes. At least one representative from each organization must attend.
2. **Can we collect cash donations?**
 - a. Yes, but only through an approved cash collection process.
 - b. Organizations wishing to collect cash must meet with Alexa Zacek before their fundraiser to receive training, materials, and instructions.
3. **Can we use Venmo, Cash App, PayPal, GoFundMe, or another crowdfunding platform?**
 - a. No. Gifts collected through unapproved methods will not count toward competition scoring.
4. **How are gifts credited to our organization?**
 - a. Gifts are tracked through the official online giving form and approved cash gift forms.
5. **What if someone donates after the competition ends?**
 - a. Only gifts received during the official competition period will count unless otherwise approved by the Office of Annual Giving.
6. **Are gift points and dollar-raised points both awarded?**
 - a. Yes! Example: A \$25 gift earns: 10 points for the gift + 25 points for dollars raised. Total = 35 points
7. **Can we earn points from more than one fundraiser?**
 - a. Yes. Additional fundraising events earn bonus points beyond the required fundraiser.
8. **Can the same organization win multiple awards?**
 - a. Yes, unless otherwise determined by the Office of Annual Giving.
9. **What happens if we submit materials late?**
 - a. Late or incomplete submissions may not be eligible for points, awards, or prize consideration.
10. **What happens if we miss a participation requirement?**
 - a. To remain eligible for the competition and any associated awards, organizations must meet all participation requirements. If a requirement is missed, the organization will no longer qualify for the competition or awards.

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Definitions

Gift

A gift is any donation made through an approved competition giving method.

Gift Attribution

Credit for gifts will be tracked through the official online giving form and approved cash gift forms.

Current IUP Student

A student enrolled at Indiana University of Pennsylvania during the competition period.

First-Time Donor

A current IUP student making their first recorded gift to IUP.

100% Member Participation

Awarded when every active member of the organization makes a gift during the competition period.

Collaboration with Another IUP Organization

A collaboration occurs when two or more recognized IUP student organizations jointly participate in a fundraising or awareness activity benefiting the Student Assistance Fund.

Examples include:

- Hosting a fundraiser together
- Co-sponsoring an event
- Staffing a table together
- Jointly promoting a fundraising campaign

Each participating organization will receive the collaboration points.