



Les Turner ALS Foundation

TAG DAYS

Captain Manual



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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Tag Days

The Les Turner ALS Foundation holds Tag Day Drives throughout the month of May in honor of National ALS Awareness Month. Tag Days began in 1991 when members of a Northwestern University student organization raised money for the Foundation by collecting money on street corners and in front of businesses. The Foundation quickly realized that this was a great way to raise funds so in 1994, they began organizing their own annual Tag Days. A true grassroots campaign, Tag Days has raised over \$2 million since its inception.

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) is a terminal progressive disease that causes muscle weakness, difficulty speaking and swallowing and, generally, complete paralysis. ALS can, in some cases, also cause changes in intellectual function, mood, behavior or personality. Every 90 minutes, someone in the United States is diagnosed with ALS and every 90 minutes, someone in the U.S. dies of ALS. While some symptoms are treatable, there is no known prevention or cure for ALS.

The Les Turner ALS Foundation

Founded in 1977, the Les Turner ALS Foundation is the leader in comprehensive ALS care in Chicagoland. Although we're one of the largest independent ALS groups in the country, we treat each person like family, and we're committed to supporting them every step of the way. Our individualized approach ensures each person living with the disease receives the best quality of care, and our local community of support provides their loved ones with answers and encouragement. Our Les Turner ALS Center at Northwestern Medicine is led by the most well-respected and successful clinicians and researchers in the field, advancing vital care and research in pursuit of life-enhancing treatments and a cure.

CAPTAIN CHECKLIST

Before Your Drive

- Determine dates
- Obtain permits
- Identify locations
- Recruit volunteers
- Request supplies
- Spread the word
- Fundraising resources
- Review additional materials chapter

During Your Drive

- Set a home base
- Take pictures
- Have fun, be safe and spread awareness
- Collect and return supplies and funds

After Your Drive

- Send items to the Foundation
- Say thank you to volunteers and businesses
- Return supplies

Notes

BEFORE YOUR DRIVE

Determine Dates

The first step is to determine which weekend in May you would like to hold your drive. You will also need to decide which days during the weekend you will be tagging. Generally, Saturdays are the busiest.

Take into consideration specific holiday's in May; Mother's Day and Memorial Day. Once you've confirmed your date, please let your Foundation contact know and be sure to fill out the material request form.

Obtain Permits

The next step is to understand what type of solicitation permit (if any) is required by your town. Every community has their own procedure and a different set of requirements, so we recommend that you start by contacting your village hall.

The Foundation can supply documentation, certificates of insurance and/or fees required in order to submit the application. If not provided during the application process, please request a copy of local ordinances that must be followed.

Identify Locations

With your dates and permits finalized, you now need to identify locations for your volunteers to collect donations. Consider high traffic areas. Some good options include train stations, grocery stores, banks, libraries, coffee shops, etc.

Many chain retailers restrict solicitation, so we recommend starting with locally owned businesses. A few exceptions are Jewel and Starbucks, which we've found to be supportive of charitable fundraising.

If the location is on private property, you must secure written permission. A sample letter of permission can be provided by request from your Foundation contact. In some towns, you can also tag at street intersections, but this depends on your town's ordinances and your volunteers' level of comfort

Recruit Volunteers

In general, the more volunteers you recruit and the more each volunteer tags, the more lucrative your drive will be! Once you've recruited volunteers, you will need to assign everyone to a shift and location. A shift is usually 2 to 4 hours long.

Captains have had success securing volunteers through the following individuals and/or groups:

- Friends and family
- Local athletic teams
- High School Service Clubs
- Community Groups
- Social Media

At your request, the Foundation can:

- Email information regarding your drive to previous volunteers and potential new volunteers in your area
- Provide you with pull-tab flyers that you can print and post in public places throughout your town (i.e. health clubs, day cares, schools, library, park district facilities, etc.)
- Provide a sample shift schedule

Identify a co-captain

Identifying a co-captain can greatly increase your reach within the community and distribute the workload. Consider selecting a co-captain from a different social circle to maximize the number of donors and volunteers involved in your drive.

Request Supplies

The Foundation will coordinate the delivery of your Tag Days supplies. In order to receive your items on time, please complete the captain confirmation and material request form provided by your Foundation contact ASAP. Below are the supplies that you will receive in your shipment:

Aprons, Collections Containers and Tag Cards

Volunteers must wear the bright yellow aprons while tagging. The aprons attract the attention of potential donors, increases awareness and provide added safety. Volunteers will be equipped with collection containers to hold the donation and tags cards to hand to

Request Supplies (cont.)

pedestrians and drivers. The cards include information about ALS, the Les Turner ALS Foundation and the tag days online donation page link.

Coin Banks

Coin banks can be placed in locations throughout your community to collect change. Feel free to place tag cards next to each coin bank so that people can learn about the Foundation.

Spread the Word

Social Media

Social media makes it easier than ever to let your friends know that you are participating in Tag Days. Utilize online networks to recruit volunteers, raise money and spread awareness.

Post a link to the Tag Days fundraising page, ask your friends for support, provide updates on your fundraising progress and thank your followers.

Media Outlets

Publicity equals awareness, and we've found that people are more inclined to donate or volunteer when they have been educated and exposed to the cause ahead of time. Ideally, you should contact media outlets 3-4 weeks before your drive. Please note that the Foundation distributes calendar announcements and pitches selected feature press release stories to appropriate media outlets.

If you do plan on contacting your local media outlets, please let us know so we don't duplicate efforts. Reach out to your Foundation contact if you are interested in sending a press release, as we have a template that you can customize.

Fundraising Resources

Another way to increase funds is to get your community, friends and family involved. Consider one of the following ideas: matching gifts, jeans day or a restaurant fundraiser. Remember that it doesn't hurt to ask, be sure to follow up and thank your donors.

DAY OF YOUR DRIVE

Home Base

On the day(s) of your drive, we suggest selecting a centrally located “home base” where all volunteers can pick up their supplies and find out where they have been assigned.

Safety

Volunteer safety is our number one priority. Please make sure that all of your volunteers receive a copy of the “Instructions for Tag Days Volunteers” informational and safety sheet or are clearly informed of this information, at the start of their shift.

Take Pictures

The best photos feature people at close range and in good lighting. Post your photos on social media and tag the Foundation @LesTurnerALS and use the hashtag #LesTurnerALS. Also be sure to share your photos with your contact at the Foundation.

Have Fun and Spread Awareness!

Collect and Return Supplies and Funds

At the conclusion of your drive, gather all of the supplies you were mailed and funds collected. See the “after your drive” section for specific details on returning all necessary items.

AFTER YOUR DRIVE

Send Items to the Foundation

Following your drive, please send the following items to the Foundation office as soon as possible. A return envelope is included with your supplies:

Check and/or Deposit Slip

Drop-off or schedule pick up of proceeds options:

- Bring your collected proceeds to the [First Bank of Highland Park](#) or reach out to your local bank about coin/bill counting
- Bring your collected proceeds to the Foundation office
- Work with your Foundation contact to schedule a pickup

Volunteer and Business List

Email or mail in your completed list of business that allowed volunteers and your volunteers using the form provided with your supplies.

- Volunteers will not be added to our e-newsletter list unless they specify that they would like to receive our communications

Photos

Send photos taken during your Tag Days Drive to our [Foundation Facebook Page](#) or email us at events@lesturnerals.org

Say Thank You

If contact information is received from captains, the Foundation sends thank you letters to businesses, adult volunteers and acknowledges volunteers under the age of 18 with certificates of appreciation. Letters of participation can be provided as well. You may wish to send out personal thank you notes as well!

Return Supplies

Instruction on how to return your supplies is included in your folder, sent with your supplies. *Reminder, supplies are returned to Gold Eagle Distribution Center (4404 W 42nd Pl, Chicago, IL 60632), not the Foundation office.*

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Samples and Templates

Reach out to your Foundation contact if you are interested in any of the following:

- Business request for permission (to allow volunteers at their business)
- Sample volunteer schedules
- Press release template
- Sample social media posts
- Sample email solicitation (call for volunteers, donations and awareness)

Foundation Contact Information

Les Turner ALS Foundation

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Skokie, IL 60077

P: 847-679-3311

E: events@lesturnerals.org