

Auction Item Basics:

- Auction items should range from small to large, price-wise – people can't always afford expensive items.
- Lower-value items, such as wine, gift certificates, etc., are also great. They can be combined into bigger baskets or added to more of a grab-bag style event.
- Services--professional or otherwise, weekends/weeks in vacation homes, and personally-crafted items are all great for a community auction such as this one!
- Look at past items for inspiration (see attached spreadsheet and the "general ideas" section, below.)

Silent Auction Item Ideas

Food & Drink, Cooking and Entertaining

- Gift certificates from local restaurants (both fine and casual)
- Fine bottle(s) of wine
- Single bottles of hard liquor (such as scotch)
- Themed "bar" baskets (for example, everything you need to make a martini: vodka (or gin), a shaker, martini glasses, olives, etc.)
- A sample pack of "exotic" beers
- Gift certificate from a make-and-take business
- Gift certificate for a cooking class
- Cookbooks
- Set of "good" kitchen knives
- Small (but somewhat fancy) kitchen appliances: a KitchenAid mixer, espresso machine
- Gift certificate for a cookie-a-month, dessert-a-month, etc. (could be donated by a professional or by someone within your organization who bakes just like a professional)
- Chocolate basket, coffee basket, bread basket, wild rice basket: any type of theme can work! Include actual product, gift certificates for product, ingredients and tools to make product, cookbooks – be creative!
- Gift certificate/basket from a local food co-op or food artisan (such as a chocolate, honey, cheese or wine maker)
- Dinner prepared by a local chef or someone within your organization
- Certificate from a local brewery to learn how to make your own beer
- Set of wine glasses or barware
- Set of BBQ tools
- 25 lb. Salted Nut Roll
- Year supply of Girl Scout Thin Mint cookies

Kids

- Family Fun Box: a plastic tub filled with various board and card games, snacks (such as microwave popcorn, licorice, Goldfish, Skittles), and/or a Blockbuster gift certificate
- Baby basket filled with lotion, powder, bibs, blanket, toys, etc.
- Set of children's books
- Set of children's toys
- Set of children's DVDs
- Playhouse (outdoor)
- Gift certificate for admission to the Children's Museums, Museums, Zoos, etc.

- Toy store gift certificates
- Admission to a water park or other theme park

Garden/Yard

- Gift certificate from a local nursery
- Gift certificate from a local florist (could be a single certificate or for a flower/plant a month)
- Tote of garden tools
- Garden bench
- Garden boot cleaner
- Copper fire pit
- Garden sculpture
- Bird feeder and bird feed
- Gift certificate from a local landscaper
- Gift certificate for dirt, rock, mulch
- Gift certificate from a lawn service
- Use of a piece of heavy landscape equipment for a weekend (this was an actual item!)
- Adirondack chairs
- Porch swing
- Patio furniture
- Lawn mower
- Snow blower
- BBQ grill
- Yard clean-up/gutter cleaning/window washing gift certificate

For Her

- Handmade jewelry
- Gift certificate for manicure, pedicure, massage, haircut, spa day
- Basket of spa/bath products (for example The Thymes, Crabtree and Evelyn)
- Basket of fine soaps, lotion, etc.
- Handmade/handknit scarves (subject to taste, but these have been very popular lately)
- Relaxation basket: bubble bath, aroma therapy candle, CD of quiet music, etc.
- Handbag from Coach, Brighton, etc.

Sports/Outdoors

- Tickets for a professional or college game: hockey, basketball, baseball, football,
- Memorabilia signed by professional players (baseball, bobble head, photo, jersey)
- Sports equipment: golf clubs, tennis racket, fishing rod, tackle box filled with lures
- Gift certificate for golf, diving, tennis, etc. lessons
- Gift certificate for round of golf at local club
- Sunglasses
- Half day of guided fishing
- Gym membership
- Tent, sleeping bag, cookstove, etc.
- Binoculars
- Ski lift ticket certificates

House and Home

- Gift certificate for maid service
- Tool box filled with new tools

- Electronics: stereo system, iPod, television, etc.
- Set of CDs around a certain theme
- Digital camera or video camera
- Artwork – again, somewhat subjective – but don't eliminate it completely. Just remember generally artwork does not go for the full value.
- Gift certificate for a painting of your house
- Gift certificate for a room makeover
- Gift certificate for a session with a professional organizer
- Handyman gift certificate
- Box/bucket of "fancy" cleaning products (such as products based in Wisconsin)
- Handmade pottery
- Gift certificate from a local photographer
- Handmade cards, photo album, etc.
- Gift basket related to a specific craft (for example, stamping or knitting)
- Gift certificate for a craft class
- Handmade quilt or certificate for handmade quilt
- Baskets themed around a holiday (for example, a Christmas basket could include ornaments, holiday candles, a tree skirt, stockings, etc.)
- Electric tools
- Silk or dried floral arrangement
- Household items such as vases, bowls, platters, candlesticks, pillows
- Complete "table-top": includes set of dishes for eight, table cloth, napkins, candle holders, silverware, crystal, etc.