

First Dates Guide

Organise a First Dates event to help people find true love, whilst also raising some serious cash for MRF!

Getting ready for the event

- Pick a date - This event works great around Valentines Day but can be done any time of the year
- Select a venue - You'll need a venue that can seat a large number of couples at a time, so it might be worth booking out a section of a restaurant. See if the venue can create a set menu for you for the evening.
- Sell tickets - Create an online questionnaire that people have to complete after purchasing their ticket, which you can then use to pair people up. Ask for people's gender and sexuality, and then several questions about their interests etc.
- Advertise the event - Create an event on social media and get your friends and family to promote the night by sharing it / inviting their friends. You could also make some posters to put up around your local area.
- Match your couples and let them know when their date is!



What you'll need

- Venue
- Volunteers for the evening
- Decorations (ask your charity contact for MRF balloons and banners)
- Cardboard collection tins for around the venue

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Ollie and Maddie made £2,310.30 at their First Dates event!

- Ollie and Maddie, Kilimanjaro

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On the day

- Arrive at the venue early to ensure you have plenty of time to get everything ready. Decorate the venue and set up a registration desk where people can 'check in'
- As people arrive, tick them off and take them to their table. If people are late call them and remind them that it's rude to stand someone up!
- If anyone is stood up, tell them as nicely as possible and offer to re-match them with someone else on another date.



The important bits

- Be aware of alcohol consumption at the event and try not to promote drinking. Make it clear that non-alcoholic drinks are available and make sure nobody under the age of 18 is consuming alcohol.
- Keep the money you raise safe and pay it in to MRF as soon as you can.
- Remind people that they can leave their date at any time if they feel uncomfortable.

Top tips

- Ask the venue if they can offer a free drink with each meal as an added incentive to daters!
- Don't overcomplicate the matching form as having too many questions can make it harder to match people.
- Offer 'double dates' as an option so people can go on their date with a friend who is also taking part in the event.

**For more information contact
fundraising@meningitis.org**

"First Dates was a really fun event to organise!"

- Luke, Three Peaks