

WHAT IS THE COUGAR RIDGE AUCTION?

Every two years, Cougar Ridge Elementary PTSA puts on a fundraising auction to raise money to support numerous programs and services for our students and staff. Money earned from the Auction goes towards programs like the Art Docent Program, Science Fair, Art Fair, Spelling Bee, Chess Club, grants for each teacher for his/her classroom, Brain Pop, Spooky Spaghetti, Heritage Festival, End of year Carnival, and more!

Our next Auction is going to be on Friday, March 13, 2020 at the Hyatt Regency Lake Washington. The auction committee works for months asking local businesses and families to donate all kinds of things (restaurant and spa gift certificates, summer camp gift certificates, trips, experiences, tutoring classes, etc. – all kinds of things that our parents might be interested in buying). We hire an auctioneer and hold a fun evening with a Silent Auction, Games, Party Sign-Ups, a Live Auction and Dinner. It is a great event for community building for the parents and a fun evening out!

Each year the auction has a theme. Our parents love to get dressed up in costumes! The theme this year is **Roaring 20's** (because it will be 2020 next year). This means that many people will dress in clothes that ladies and gentlemen wore in the 1920's. It is fringe dresses, beads and feathers for the ladies and tuxedos or "gangster" suits for the men. If you go online and type in "Great Gatsby clothes" or "Roaring 20's clothes" you will get a better idea of what that means. It is a very fun theme and easy to find clothes for. About half of the people dress up in costume and the other half wear cocktail attire (nice dresses for ladies and suits for men).

Tickets for the auction will go on sale mid-January. When you purchase your tickets, you will be asked whether you would like to sit at the same table with your friends. We will do our best to seat you with your friends. Not to worry if you don't put anyone down, as we will seat you with parents of kids in the same grade. This is a great opportunity to meet more parents of kids in your grade!

For the families not familiar with what the Auction is, the following is a brief description of each portion of the Auction:

Cocktail Hour – When you arrive you will be offered champagne and passed appetizers. This is a great time to mingle with other parents, play games, bid on the Silent Auction items and sign up for Parties!

Silent Auction – There will be tables set up with various items that you can bid on during the cocktail hour. These items will include things like summer camps, tutoring classes, spa gift certificates, exercise gift certificates, photo sessions with photographers, restaurant gift certificates, kids birthday parties, certificates to various museums, etc. You will be able to walk around and bid on these items during the cocktail hour before dinner begins. There will be various sections of the silent auction that will close at different times before dinner begins. Once closed you will no longer be able to bid on the items. If you are the highest bidder on an item, you will be able to pick up your items at the end of the night at Checkout.

Games/Raffles – During the cocktail hour you will also have an opportunity to enter various raffles and play various games. One raffle item will be the ability to choose any of the Live Auction items before it is sold in the Live Auction. One game will include winning bottles of wine, and another will include winning various gift certificates to all sorts of places. Our Games/Raffles committee is busy coming up with other fun games! These have all been very popular in the past!

Party Sign Ups - One section of the room will be reserved for Party sign ups. Families volunteer to host parties and at the Auction we create large boards where you can sign up to go to a party. These parties may cost anywhere from \$25-\$250 per person depending on how elaborate or exclusive the party may be. Parties can be for individuals, couples or kids – depending on what kind of parties are donated to the auction. Parties are a great opportunity to make new friend and build a stronger community for our kids and our school.

Dinner – There will be a 3-course plated dinner, including salad, main course and dessert. Wine will also be included with dinner and there will be a cash bar with drinks available for purchase!

Live Auction – Once you are seated for dinner, the Auctioneer will begin the Live Auction portion of the evening. There will be 25-30 Live Auction items available for purchase. These will be the bigger items, such as trips, Principal of the Day, stock your wine cellar, Mariner’s Diamond Club tickets, weekend getaways, Invisalign treatments, artwork, along with many more great items and experiences! Similar to the silent auction, the highest bidder will pick up his/her winnings at the end of the evening at Checkout.

Raise the Paddle – Each auction, the Principal and the PTSA work together for an “ask” of the families that meets a pressing need of the school. Past examples of the school need has been laptop computers, iPads for classrooms, and incremental playground equipment. We are still working with Mr. Terry to finalize the ask for this year. Everyone is asked to raise their bid card (“the paddle”) and donate to help fund the item that the Principal is requesting.

After Party! – After dinner and the Live Auction, there will be drinks and dancing for those who would like to continue enjoying the evening! You can buy ticket to the After Party at the same time that you purchase your Auction tickets!

We look forward to having you at the Auction this year! If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Ewelina Hickey, Auction Chair, at cougarridgeauction2020@gmail.com.

Thank you!