**Ten Creative Ways Schools Have Funded My Author Visits**

by Tammi Sauer

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\* **Box Tops**—So far, two schools have paid for my honorarium and travel expenses by way of Box Tops. For one of those visits, kids collected over 15,000 Box Tops. This approach was especially nice in that the kids felt proud of the fact that their efforts made the visit happen.

\* **Pencil Sales**—One school had a pencil vending machine. The librarian put all sorts of fun pencils in the machine, and kids paid $.50 for each one. Those quarters paid for my visit.

\* **Uniform-Free Day**—At some schools, students are required to wear uniforms. So far, three schools paid for my visit by giving each student the option to pay $5 for a uniform-free day. That money went toward funding my visit.

\* **Loose Change**—At a couple of schools, students were given the opportunity to bring in their loose change. Not only were the students able to feel like contributors, they were able to see how a little bit from many individuals really adds up.

\* **Book Sales**—Some schools worked with a local bookstore. The books were sold to the students at the cover price. The bookstore then gave the schools 20% of that total amount. That money went toward covering the cost of the visit.

\* **Kickstarter**—One of my visits was entirely paid for thanks to a librarian's Kickstarter campaign.

\* **In-School Field Trip**—Students are often asked to contribute a few dollars to partake in a typical field trip. One school promoted my visit as an In-School Field Trip and expenses were covered by these contributions.

\* **Book Fairs**—Many, many, *many* of my visits have been paid for courtesy of book fair money.

\* **Wish List**—At one school, a teacher put "author visit" on her wish list, and some families covered the expense.

\* **Just Ask!**—Some schools have funded my visits simply by asking local businesses if they would like to sponsor an author visit. Those businesses received a shout out prior to each presentation and/or received an acknowledgement in a brief letter home to families. Bonus Idea: Some schools were able to avoid hotel expenses by asking local hotels if they'd be willing to donate a free room.