



Volunteer Appreciation



Volunteers play a critical role in charitable and nonprofit organizations' ongoing success. Their efforts provide crucial operational support, allowing your organization to continue its important work in the community. It is often volunteers who advocate and champion the mission of an organization within their communities, donating both their time and expertise. We must show our gratitude to volunteers in meaningful ways to honor their contributions. By recognizing their efforts and contributions, we can help to foster a culture of volunteerism and encourage continued engagement and support for charitable and nonprofit organizations.

Volunteer Appreciation Ideas



- **Volunteer Party or Lunch** - Host a party with music, food, and drinks to bring volunteers and staff together. Add activities like raffle prizes to boost participation and morale. A simple lunch is great too.
- **Hand Written Welcome Card** - Handwritten cards with heartfelt words can have a significant impact.
- **Create A Special Award** - Recognize volunteers for their specific contributions, such as most hours, great attitude, or going above and beyond, by creating awards with certificates. This easy form of appreciation is worth the effort.
- **Take Time to Recognize Length of Service** - Celebrate volunteer anniversaries with a years of service award and special gift or token to represent each year. Increase the gift as their years of service grow.
- **Special Name Tags** - Make volunteers feel like part of the team with special name tags with your organization's logo.
- **Volunteer Appreciation Wall/ Dedicated Place in Your Office** - Dedicate a space to them in an important work area. This will make them feel valued and a part of your work long-term. It's an excellent way to show volunteer appreciation.
- **Write a Reference Letter** - Write a letter of reference to appreciate your volunteers' efforts. Highlight their contributions to your organization's mission.
- **Create a "VIP" Parking Spot** - To show appreciation for volunteers, offer them VIP treatment with a reserved parking spot, especially if they've had to deal with far parking spots or high parking costs.
- **National Volunteer Month** - April



Virtual Volunteer Appreciation Ideas

- **Give Them a Call** - Phone calls are time-consuming, but essential for building intimate relationships with volunteers. Keep the conversation light, recall unique details about each volunteer, and make them feel valued to create a strong bond with your organization.
- **Send a Thank you Email** - Send a personalized thank-you email or letter to your volunteers to show your appreciation, communicate the impact of their contributions, and share upcoming events they may be interested in.
- **Have Program Participants Film a Thank you Message** - Team gratitude is crucial, but program participants thanking volunteers can showcase the impact they have on the community. Use a photo if filming is not possible and feature it in a spotlight email.
- **Send Impact Reports** - Provide a report that demonstrates the impact of volunteers' efforts and time.
- **Create Custom Filters for Social Media/ Tweet About Your Volunteers** - Include filters in your social media strategy as they contribute to visual storytelling and increase user engagement by 80%. Customized filters can help reach volunteers' networks and showcase top volunteers in a story.

