

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

4 BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERING

WHAT VOLUNTEERS WISHED YOU KNEW

50

LOW-COST
VOLUNTEER
APPRECIATION
GIFTS & IDEAS



Volunteers

Being a part of a local church is a great opportunity to develop important relationships that help you grow in your faith. By volunteering in one or more areas, you are able to build friendships that will support your personal walk with God. It is not always easy to find time to give to your local church, but it is important.

4 Benefits of Volunteering:

1. Volunteering connects you to others
2. Volunteering is good for your mind and body
3. Volunteering can advance your career
4. Volunteering brings fun and fulfillment to your life

Volunteer Appreciation

With every team and every event, you need volunteers. The nice thing about volunteering is that the volunteer gets to decide where to volunteer and who to volunteer with. With the right perspective and approach to volunteers, you can have a great group of individuals who will jump at the chance to help.

5 Reasons Why Volunteers Give Their Time?

1. To Improve Their Community
2. To Contribute to a Cause That They Care About
3. To Socialize
4. To Build Personal Skills
5. To Give Back

What Volunteers Wish You Knew

1. "I wish he/she knew my name."
 - a. Wear name tags so that volunteers can call you by name and so that you can become familiar with their names.
 - b. Have them complete a volunteer application so that you can get to know them.
 - c. Write a handwritten note to each volunteer after each event to personally thank them by name.
2. "I wish they were more organized before they recruit people. The organizers did not have a sense of professionalism."
3. "I wish they knew my time was valuable."
 - a. Start on time and release your volunteers when you said you would.

Find Out How Your Volunteers Feel Most Appreciated

Almost everyone has heard of the 5 Love Languages, but one of the most helpful tools you can use with your volunteers is the [5 Languages of Appreciation](#) by Gary Chapman and Paul White. The language categories are the same as the Love Languages but it makes you aware of how each of your regular volunteers really feel appreciated. Do they know you appreciate them when you give them a high five? Maybe they feel most appreciated when you mention them in a group or send them a thank you card.

For those volunteers that serve faithfully every time, finding out how they feel appreciated is vital to retaining them.

50 Low-Cost Volunteer Appreciation Gifts and Ideas

1. **Social Media Shout-Out** – Use Facebook group pages or Twitter to spotlight a volunteer each month. Encourage “likes,” compliments, and shares. Be sure to monitor the page.
2. **“Chalk” It Up to Our Volunteers** – Buy chalkboard paint and use it to cover a highly visible section of wall. Each week or month, write a thank you and a compliment on the wall. Keep chalk handy for others to add to it.
3. **Helping Hands Day** – Distribute handprint cutouts and ask everyone to write a volunteer name and a compliment on the cutout. Tape them to a highly visible wall on a special day.
4. **Thank You Boards** – Decorate poster boards with a volunteer’s special interests and a thank you message. Provide a space for folks to sign it and put it up for everyone to see!
5. **Recognition Ceremony** – Before or after a fundraiser or event, recognize volunteers with a certificate and a nice comment about how they have helped.
6. **Thank You Box** – Set out a box and index cards in a high traffic area with both a volunteer’s name and instructions written on the box. As people come and go, they can write a special message for the volunteer and put it in the box. Be sure to check over the entries before giving the box to your volunteer.
7. **Bulletin Board** – Decorate a bulletin board that showcases volunteers each month.
8. **Volunteer Spotlight** – In newsletters or emails, write a paragraph about a volunteer and why they are special to the organization.
9. **Parking Spots** – Have regular volunteers? Designate volunteer parking spots close to the building.
10. **A Cheers To You Party** – Why do we wait till people are dead to talk great about them? Put your volunteer in a chair and ask several folks (ahead of time) to stand up and give a “toast-style” speech as a tribute to the volunteer.

See complete list at signupgenious.com