

Recognition Ideas
Finding and Keeping Great Volunteers
June 4, 2008

Longterm Volunteers

- Brunch/meal
- Recognition at an event
- Recognition on website, in newsletter, in newspaper
- Plaques, certificates, trophies, pins (not cheesy)
- Birthday cards
- Art pieces
- United Way - nominate for yearly award
- Recognition from different levels, ie. director, etc.
- "Anniversary" cards
- BBQ for certain service lengths
- Receiving "inside" information about programs before the general public
- Head of organization giving them a personal call, etc.
- Increased responsibility
- Yearly personal thank you letter
- Mentoring opportunities
- Landmark service award
- Verbal thank you

Older Volunteers

- Personal note
- Birthday cards
- Phone check-ins
- Dinner/Social/Tea, etc.
- Gift Certificates
- Newspaper/TV stories/Ad thank yous
- Profuse verbal thank you
- One-on-one lunch
- Years of service pins, plaques
- Recognize publicly at a meeting
- One-on-one time
- Annual picnic
- Awards banquet
- If workable, connect them with young people
- Snail mail note of thanks
- Show an interest in their family, personal life

Youth Volunteers

- Ice cream/pizza social
- Awards or giveaways - grab bags
- Social event with food!
- Dance, music, games
- Ability to use as a reference for a job application
- Group photo in paper, blog, MySpace, newsletter
- Look them in the eye and thank them. Make a connection with them.
- Class credit
- Gift certificates to “appealing” places
- Note to parents/school on positive performance
- Invite them to bring their friends
- Move ‘em up! Give more responsibility.
- Learn from them - Recognize them for what they know.
- Recognize them as an individual and unique
- Remember their name and something about them.

Episodic/Done in a Day Volunteers

- Thank verbally (profusely)
- Lunch/goodies/snacks
- Check on their needs periodically
- Take a photo of the event/group photo and send/email it to them
- Name in newsletter or publication
- Food coupons or giveaways
- Call back - recognized for having done good
- Feedback of tangible results
- Group hug
- Mail thank you notes
- Acknowledge the last good job they did when asking for their next help.
- Reference letter if possible
- Acknowledge at event
- Invite to volunteer again
- Solicit their feedback again, ideas, etc.