

Volunteer Recognition

Recognizing volunteers is an essential part of a successful project. Recognition is a way for your volunteers to get “paid” for their efforts. From a simple thank you at the end of the day, to more elaborate efforts, recognition helps volunteers feel good about their work – and helps retain them for future events.

Recognition Ideas

- Send personal thank you cards, letters, emails, etc. (see samples)
- Provide certificates or plaques of completion or recognition, or post virtual certificates on your website
- Recognize volunteers in project publicity materials
- Give simple, but useful gifts: baked goods, flowers, gift certificates, seed packets, gift baskets, pens, notepads, etc.
- Provide native plants to take home
- Offer new, challenging volunteer opportunities (growth opportunities)
- Make a key volunteer the premier guest at a ribbon-cutting
- Invite volunteers to a fun event like a dance or karaoke session, etc.
- Provide appealing donated or discounted food at your events: soda, cookies, pizza, fruit, etc.
- Offer free memberships or discounted services to volunteers
- Offer volunteer pins or patches for a certain number of hours worked
- Give t-shirts; customize them with volunteer names and event information
- Hold a raffle for donated merchandise or give out door prizes
- Provide copies of event photos – personalized for them
- Provide volunteer opportunities at high-profile events
- Present awards: gag or serious
- Offer educational opportunities: free training, seminars, expert talks, etc.
- Send a regular newsletter with quotes and ideas, or profiles of volunteers
- Hand out educational materials
- Provide networking and socializing opportunities
- Nominate volunteers for community awards or scholarships
