



Recognizing and Rewarding Volunteers

1. Words of inspiration at orientation
2. Fresh coffee
3. FOOD!
4. Greetings when volunteers arrive
5. Periodic thank yous for being a team member
6. Email acknowledgements for work accomplished
7. Special treats for the holidays
8. Suggestion box contests – ask for suggestions, reward winners for suggestions you use
9. Give credit to volunteers who suggest projects or improvements
10. Name an award after a long-term volunteer
11. Parking space
12. Annual events: dinner dance, recognition ceremony
13. Birthday cards
14. Volunteer anniversary cards (date of service)
15. Get well cards
16. Free admission to events and programs at area/site
17. Library privileges – allow volunteers to check out books
18. Discounts on merchandise
19. Take volunteer out to lunch
20. Tickets to events
21. Special training sessions with certificates for attendance
22. Name tags or other insignia worn by volunteer
23. Term-of-service awards (project, hours, months, every year): letters, certificates, plaques, trophies (career-related)
24. Logo items: Jackets, T-shirts, tote bags, buttons, hats, patches, pins, books, tapes, videos, coffee mugs, wallets, etc.
25. Gifts: Flowers, balloons, bouquets, magazine subscriptions
26. Information about the big picture: number of clients served, number of meals served, number of classes provided, number of hours volunteers contributed
27. Post thank yous on bulletin boards in public area
28. Choose a volunteer of the month. Be specific WHY
29. Create a “volunteer hall of fame” area and post photos with captions
30. Take photos of volunteers being congratulated with staff supervisor
31. Take photos of TEAMS
32. Feature volunteers in public relations efforts
33. Use volunteer projects and photos in brochures and publications
34. Write articles on volunteer contributions in in-house newsletters
35. Create an “Annual Report” handout for volunteers, and write about the “best” results achieved, or the most hours worked, etc. Have several criteria for defining the “best”
36. Keep the volunteer in the loop as much as possible – communicate well – and frequently!