



Creative Ways to Thank Volunteers

We all know the importance of expressing our thanks to the volunteers who give so generously of their time. Here are some creative ideas to help you do this.

Recognition is an important component of volunteer retention. When volunteers feel appreciated and important, they are more likely to feel connected to the program and continue their involvement.

The following list offers some ideas for low-cost, creative “in the drawer” thank you options for your volunteers. Keep them with a stack of stamped envelopes, ready to send to a volunteer you know is under pressure, went the extra mile, has had a busy shift, or just deserves a little recognition.

- Starburst lollies with a note that says “You’re the star of our organisation.”
- Lifesaver lollies with a note that says “You’re a lifesaver for our organisation.”
- Mints:
 - * “I mint to tell you how thankful I am for you.”
 - * “Thanks for your commit-mint.”
 - * “This is mint to tell you how much we appreciate you.”
- A bag of nuts with a note that says, “We’re nuts about you.”
- Coffee sachets: “Thanks a latte”, “Words can’t expresso how much we appreciate what you do for our organisation.”
- Car air freshener with a note that says, “You’re a scent-sational volunteer.”
- Twix Bar with a note that says, “Be twix me and you...we couldn’t do this without you.”
- M&M’s with a note that says, “Much & Many thanks for all you do.”
- Crunchie bar (buy a bag of the ‘mini’ bars ... they go a long way for the \$ spent), “When it’s crunch time...we know we can count on you. Thanks.”
- A pack of colourful stickers, with a note that says, “Thanks for sticking with us.”
- A small Lego set or Mini-figure with a note that says, “We never want to Lego of you!”



- A bag of microwave popcorn with a note that says, “You are a POPular volunteer.”
- Flavored tea bags with a note that says, “You’re a Tea-riffic volunteer.”

The internet abounds with plenty more imaginative and resourceful ideas you can try. Start by considering what your volunteers enjoy and what would be most meaningful to them.

Thank you gifts don’t need to cost the earth, but the act of showing your appreciation will go a long way towards making your volunteers feel valued and respected.