



Volunteer Recognition

Recognising and valuing volunteers is critical to good volunteer management practice. Here are 96 different ways to recognise and support your volunteers.

Annual summary of hours worked and training sessions attended

Awards – nominate them

Be interested in what they're doing

Birthday cards

Brooches

Buddy systems

Cards with personal messages of thanks

Celebrate their achievements

Certificates of appreciation

Child care

Chocolate

Christmas cards/gifts

Coat hooks

Coffee, tea, and treats

Compliments

Constructive criticism

Consult them

Encourage them

Encourage paid staff to value volunteers

Ensure they know who to go to if they have problems

Farewell ceremonies when they leave

Feedback

Flexibility about hours, roles, & need for time out

Flowers

Follow up on those who leave

Free admission to

Free parking

Fun certificates, e.g. "Busy Bee"

Get well cards when they're ill

Gifts

Government Honours

Increase their responsibilities

Invite their family and friends to an event

Invite them to sit on committees

Invite them to make a presentation to the Board about the work they do

Invite them to take a training session

Involve them in discussion and decision-making

Keep in touch

Keep them fully informed

Letters from management or Board

Life membership of your agency

Lollies

Long service awards

Lunches

Marking milestones (100 hours, five years, etc)

Mention in your Annual Report

Monthly awards for special service

Name something after a volunteer

Name badges

Newsletters to keep them informed

Notices and/or photos on the notice board

Opportunities to expand or modify their roles to develop new skills

Organise volunteer support groups

Parties



- Pass on feedback received about their work
- Pay for them to attend conferences or classes
- Personal contact
- Personal invitations to your events
- Photos in your Newsletter / Social Media pages
- Plaques
- Pleasant work environment
- Pot luck meals
- Praise
- Prize draw for volunteers monthly
- Promote them
- Prompt response to messages
- Provide appropriate challenges
- Publicity about work they've done
- References
- Reimbursement of expenses/bus fares
- Remember their names (and their partners')
- Resources and equipment
- Respect their individuality and uniqueness
- Retreat in pleasant surroundings
- Role descriptions clearly written
- Safe and healthy working conditions
- Show your appreciation for what they've done
- Smiles
- Social gatherings
- Status
- Surprise treats
- Take time to listen to them
- Talk to them
- Tea breaks
- Thank-you's
- Titles
- Training which appeals to them and develops their skills
- Treat them as equal members of the team
- Trust them
- T-shirts
- Uniforms
- VolCan Volunteer Recognition Awards
- Vote of thanks at your A.G.M
- Vouchers
- Welcome them