50 WAYS TO "LOVE" YOUR VOLUNTEERS OR
HAVE YOU RECOGNIZED YOUR VOLUNTEERS TODAY?

Try some of these ideas to keep your volunteers HAPPY!

- Sponsor a “Blue Ribbon People” reception
- Include in meetings with top administrators or invite to staff meetings
- Have a Blue Ribbon “V” Week
- VIP discounts (Volunteer Identification Permits)
- Have a picnic with the theme “Volunteering is a Picnic”
- Distribute stickers—"Cheers for Volunteers and their Helping Hands"
- Feature a different volunteer each evening on TV/Radio news
- Design church services to honor volunteers
- Take “Thank you” cakes to media for support of volunteers
- Announce 5 volunteer names every 15 minutes on radio
- Solicit Home Economics Dept/Vocational Tech classes to sponsor luncheons
- Have kids write thank you notes
- Include information in business/civic newsletters
- Have an “un-tea” party—quiet party with self and a tea bag (a stay at home tea party)
- All marquees say “Thank You Volunteers”
- Salaried staff sponsors a pitch-in Salad Buffet
- Have token checks that say “Million Thanks”
- Guess number of hearts in a jar and have a prize (Could be same number of hearts as number of volunteers)
- Provide special name tags, parking spaces, coffee table, work space, phone and expense reimbursement
- Provide a good job description
- Document time and efforts for evaluation
- Provide and/or exhibit photos of volunteers at work or receiving awards
- “Turn About” Lunch (salaried staff serves)
- Promote!
- Produce a slide show/video of volunteers
- Provide with training or cover expenses for training opportunities
- Send Cards—even for no special occasion
- Provide volunteer board with photos and neat information on opportunities as well as current news of volunteers
- Create t-shirts, bumper stickers, buttons, balloons or other neat items
- Sponsor an essay contest on “Why I Volunteer”
- Send a letter to editor
- Construct an “Honor Roll” of volunteers and place in public places
- Design your own thank you notes
- Provide a fashion show on “What Volunteers Wear?”
- Provide performance evaluation
- Sponsor media cake decorating contest with the theme of volunteering. Provide decorating supplies, plastic gloves and chef’s hats and aprons. Cakes are donated to volunteers
• Share books/articles of mutual interest
• Greet by name and introduce to those in attendance
• Call or write when absent
• Provide letters of recommendation
• Have a tree trimming party where clients make decorations for tree and volunteers take them home
• Add an “unexpected” post-a-note of thanks
• Promote Volunteer of the month program
• Develop support systems
• Call just to say “hello/thinking of you/thanks”
• Organize a “secret pal” program
• Sponsor an awards banquet
• Give a pin, certificate or plaque

Collected, “stolen” or created by Winnie Peele for 1987 Statewide Conference on Volunteerism for Recognition Workshop.