


# 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.