

30 WAYS TO RECOGNISE YOUR VOLUNTEERS

We all know that volunteers are vital to the success of a club, but how often does your club recognise it's volunteers. It is important to remember that each individual volunteer is different and therefore you may want to implement a variety of volunteer recognition strategies over time while you discover what works best for you, your volunteers and your budget! Here are some examples of ways you can recognise your volunteers:

1. Always remember to say 'thank you'
2. Smile when you see your volunteers
3. Learn and remember your volunteers' names
4. Acknowledge the presence of your volunteers
5. Give volunteers meaningful work
6. Challenge volunteers to do new things
7. Nominate volunteers for local, regional and national awards
8. Give awards such as plaques and certificates
9. Ask for feedback from your volunteers
10. Host an annual appreciation dinner, awards night etc.
11. Involve long term volunteers in training new volunteers
12. Share volunteer success stories and volunteer contributions through newsletters and your website
13. Take time to buy your volunteer a tea or coffee and have a chat
14. Provide a letter of recommendation or reference for employment
15. Provide caps, badges or t-shirts so your volunteers can be easily recognised and feel part of the team
16. Be specific when thanking volunteers. Mention something they have done that makes them special
17. Give volunteers tasks in which they will be successful
18. Recognise volunteers in front of those who are important to them
19. Send birthday cards to your volunteers, from your club
20. Host a volunteer Christmas party
21. Provide training for your volunteers
22. Celebrate International Volunteer Day on 5th December each year
23. Host an event for your volunteers during Volunteer Awareness Week usually in June each year.
24. Create a 'Volunteer/Coach of the Month' and a 'Volunteer/Coach of the Year' award
25. Involve volunteers in your club's planning process
26. Ensure your volunteer has the correct equipment for their role
27. Submit media releases about the good work your volunteers are doing
28. Organise a trip (social or educational) for your volunteers
29. Honour volunteers for years of service to your organisation
30. Say 'thank you' again!

Remember: These are not the only ways that your club can recognise it's volunteers. Be creative, listen, respond and remember that **REWARD** and **RECOGNITION** will help with **RETENTION**.