

“THEMES FOR VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION”

- Bears (Volunteers are “Beary” Special)
- International (Volunteers Make a World of Difference)
- Luau
- Country (complete with country line dancing)
- Flowers/gardens (Volunteers Bring Beauty to Life; Volunteers Sowing Seeds of Greatness)
- Cruise/sailing/ships
- Hearts (Volunteers at the Heart of Change; Volunteers Touch Many Hearts; Volunteers Give from the Heart; Volunteers – A Work of Heart)
- Hands (Volunteers Lend a Hand)
- Nation/states (Volunteers-The Promise of a Nation; Volunteers-America’s Strength)
- Animals
 - whales: We Have Something to Spout About
 - lions: We’re Not Lion We Have Great Volunteers
 - tigers: Our Volunteers are Grrrrreat
- Fiesta
- Candles (You Light Up My Life)
- Olympics/sports (Our Volunteers Participate; And the Winner Is...)
- Seasons (Volunteers: A Treasure for All Seasons; A Volunteer is a Friend for All Seasons)
- Stars/Sun/Moon/Planets (Volunteers – Stars Forever!)
- Seashore/Ocean
- Birds
- Butterflies
- The Future
- Music (Volunteers: A Symphony of Service; Let’s Toot Our Horns for our Volunteers)
- Gifts/Presents (Volunteers Give the Best Gift-Themselves; Volunteers Give the Greatest Gift of All)
- Treasure (We Treasure our Volunteers)
- Kits
- Rainbows
- Gold/Silver/Gemstones
- Holidays
- Decade (e.g., 50’s, gay 90’s)
- Art (the Art of Volunteering)
- Ice Cream Sundaes
- Birthday
- Cooking
- Flowers
- Sunshine (Love Shines Through)

“SLOGANS FOR VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION”

Volunteers – the FIRST to lend a helping hand, the LAST to turn away.

Volunteers – our greatest natural resource.

Rain or Shine – volunteers are always there.

Thank you for sharing the most precious gift of all – yourself.

We treasure our volunteers.

We send wishes full of good cheer along with our thanks to a special volunteer.

Thanks for sharing a special kind of caring.

It takes a special person to be a volunteer and that should be remembered this special week of the year.

Volunteer give the best gift – themselves.

Love shines through in all you do.

Thanks for going the extra mile.

A volunteer is someone who shares for the heart.

Cheers for volunteers!

When we found you... we struck gold!

You make a difference!

True giving knows no season.

Volunteers make spirits bright.

Volunteers – at the heart of change.

Volunteers light up our lives.

Thanks for your volunteer energy.

A time to say thanks, volunteer, for all you do throughout the year.

Volunteers – America's strength

(OVER)

Volunteers in harmony with the season.

Volunteer – Experience the joy! Enjoy the Experience!

The season for sharing – volunteer.

Volunteers make spirits bright.

Volunteers share the joy!

We share in the joy of volunteering.

And the winner is the volunteer!

Volunteers reaching out.

Volunteers – always by your side.

Caring for generations.

Volunteers add that special touch.

Volunteers make the difference.

Volunteers get more out of life.

Volunteers – stars forever!

Volunteers deserve the best.

Volunteers find the time.

Volunteers are special friends.

Volunteers give the gift of love.

A volunteer is a friend to all.

A volunteer is a friend for all seasons.

Creative Ways to Recognize Volunteers

Let your volunteers know that they have your appreciation and support by giving them small gifts with attached notes. Use the following examples or come up with your own individualized ideas.

Original art and design by Jane Vincent

What a great idea!
Bright idea! Note stuck to a
Christmas bulb



A Cracker Jack idea...
Box of CrackerJacks



**Your ideas are so
exciting I could just
pop...**
A balloon



**Thanks for raisin' the
tough questions!**
Mini-boxes of raisins



**Your great work has me
wreathed in smiles!**
Small grapevine wreath



**Sorry - I didn't mean to
hurt your feelings.**
A note with a band-aid attached



**No one holds a candle
to you!**
Scented votive candle or pack of
birthday candles



You are a LIFESAVER!
Candy with a note



**You're the apple of my
eye!**
Real or artificial apple - maybe
tied with a bow



**What an angel! Here's
your halo...**
Two silver pipe cleaners twisted
together



**Your vision is our
guiding light!**
Mini-flashlight



**You have given our
project the sweet smell
of success!**
Potpourri or sachet packet



101 WAYS TO RECOGNIZE VOLUNTEERS

Several years ago Vern Lake, a volunteer services consultant with the Minnesota Department of Public Welfare, published the following list of recognition ideas (we've added a few embellishments from Sue Vineyard's publication, "Beyond Banquets, Plaques and Pins").

1. Smile
2. Put up a volunteer suggestions box
3. Treat volunteers to a soda
4. Reimburse assignment-related expenses
5. Ask for a report
6. Send a birthday card
7. Arrange for discounts
8. Give service stripes (or flowers)
9. Maintain a coffee bar (name the coffee pot each month after a volunteer)
10. Plan annual ceremonial occasions
11. Invite volunteers to staff meetings
12. Recognize and accommodate personal needs and problems
13. Everyone loves food—plan a pot luck meal now and then
14. Be pleasant
15. Provide job descriptions that are specific, clear and flexible
16. Provide a babysitter
17. Post Honor Roll in reception area
18. Respect volunteer's wishes
19. Give informal teas
20. Keep challenging your volunteers
21. Send a Thanksgiving Day card to the volunteer's family
22. Provide a nursery
23. Say "Good Morning" and greet by name
24. Decorate surroundings for the holidays
25. Provide good pre-service training
26. Help develop self-confidence
27. Award plaques to sponsoring group
28. Take time to explain
29. Be verbal
30. Motivate agency VIP's to converse with volunteers
31. Hold "rap" sessions
32. Give additional responsibility
33. Afford participation in team planning
34. Respect sensitivities
35. Enable volunteers to grow on and out of the job
36. Put up pictures of volunteers-in-action on bulletin boards
37. Send newsworthy information to the media
38. Have wine and cheese tasting parties
39. Ask client/patient to evaluate their work/service
40. Say "Good Afternoon"
41. Honor the volunteer's preferences
42. Create pleasant surroundings
43. Welcome volunteers to staff coffee breaks
44. Enlist them to train other volunteers
45. Have a public reception and present awards
46. Take time to talk—and listen
47. Defend against hostile or negative staff
48. Make good plans
49. Commend to supervisory staff
50. Send a Valentine
51. Make thorough prearrangements
52. Persuade "personnel" to equate volunteer experience with work experience
53. Admit to partnership with paid staff
54. Recommend to prospective employer
55. Provide scholarships to volunteer conference or workshops
56. Offer advocacy roles
57. Utilize as consultants
58. Write them thank you notes
59. Invite their participation in policy formulation
60. Surprise them with coffee and cake
61. Celebrate outstanding projects and achievements
62. Nominate for volunteer awards
63. For corporate volunteers, send letters to the boss
64. Carefully match volunteer with job
65. Praise them to their friends
66. Provide substantive in-service training
67. Provide useful tools in good working condition
68. Say "Good Night"
69. Plan staff and volunteer social events
70. Be a *real* person
71. Rent billboard space for public laudation
72. Accept their individuality, respect their uniqueness
73. Provide opportunities for conferences and evaluation
74. Leave candy kisses at volunteer's work station
75. Maintain meaningful files
76. Send impromptu fun cards
77. Plan occasional extravaganzas
78. Instigate client-planned surprises
79. Utilize purchased newspaper space to say "thanks"
80. Promote a "Volunteer-of-the-Month" program
81. Send "get well," "happy vacation," "miss you" cards
82. Plan a "Recognition Edition" of the agency newsletter
83. Color code name tags to indicate particular achievements (hours, years, units, etc.)
84. Send commendatory letters to prominent public figures
85. Say "we missed you"
86. Praise the sponsoring group or club
87. Promote staff smiles, have them wear volunteer recognition buttons
88. Occasionally provide special parking space
89. Distinguish between groups and individuals in the group
90. Maintain safe working environment and conditions
91. Adequately orientate your volunteers
92. Present special award citations for extraordinary achievements
93. Fully indoctrinate volunteers regarding the agency
94. Send Christmas cards
95. Be familiar with the details or assignments
96. Conduct community-wide, cooperative, inter-agency recognition events
97. Plan a theater party
98. Attend a sports event
99. Have a picnic
100. Say "THANK YOU"
101. Smile—check gift ideas in CAHHS Sales Center catalog!

RESOURCE LIST OF VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION SUPPLIERS

HARRISON PROMOTIONS, INC.
7926 QUEEN STREET
WYNDMOOR, PA 19038

TELEPHONE: 215-233-6101

FAX: 215-233-6102

ENERGIZE
5450 WISSAHICKON AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19144

TELEPHONE: 1-800-395-9800

FAX: 215-438-0434

CAHHS VOLUNTEER SALES CENTER
P.O. BOX 2038
SACRAMENTO, CA 95812-2038

FAX: 916-552-7589

PHILANTHROPIC GIFT
12501 OLD COLUMBIA PIKE
SILVER SPRING, MD 20904-6600

TELEPHONE: 301-680-6135

FAX: 301-680-6137

POINTS OF LIGHT FOUNDATION
P.O. BOX 66534
WASHINGTON, DC 20035

TELEPHONE: 1-800-2728306

FAX: 703-803-9291

POSITIVE PROMOTIONS
222 ASHLAND PLACE
BROOKLYN, NY 11217

TELEPHONE: 1-800-653-2666

FAX: 1-800-635-2329

HAPPY PRODUCTS
103 ELSIE AVENUE
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VOLUNTEER CENTRE OF CALGARY
SUITE 610
940-6 AVENUE S.W.
CALGARY, ALBERTA T2P 3T1

TELEPHONE: 403-265-5633

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SWARTHMORE, PA 19081-1998

TELEPHONE: 610-544-8268

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