

Why People Volunteer

(just a few possible motivations)



From *The Volunteer Recruitment (and Membership Development) Book*, 3rd ed., by Susan J. Ellis, copyright 2002, Energize, Inc.

- To feel needed
- To share skills
- For a change of pace
- To get to know a new community or neighborhood
- To help someone
- Because a family member or friend pressured them
- To gain leadership skills
- To get a change from being a leader
- To act out a fantasy
- To do their civic duty
- To earn academic credit
- To be with people who are different than themselves
- To keep busy
- The agency is geographically accessible
- To do something with a friend or family member
- To learn the truth
- To do one's share
- To see that resources are well allocated
- For recognition
- To make new friends
- To explore a career
- Parenthood
- To demonstrate commitment to a cause or belief
- To help a family member
- As therapy
- To do something different than their daily job
- For fun!!!
- For religious reasons
- To keep skills alive
- To repay a debt
- To donate their professional skills
- As a family tradition
- To be challenged
- To be able to criticize without personal jeopardy
- Because there is no one else to do it
- To get the meals, transportation, or other benefits
- To assure progress
- To protect clients from an institution
- To feel good
- To have an impact
- Because their boss expects it
- To be part of a team
- To learn something new
- To be an advocate
- To gain status
- To get out of the house
- For freedom of schedule
- Because they were asked
- Because of who did the asking
- To test themselves
- As an excuse to do something they love
- For escape
- To become an "insider"
- To be an agent of change
- Because of their personal experience with a cause or problem
- Guilt
- Because of interest in or concern for the particular client group
- To gain access to services for themselves
- To experiment with new ways of doing something
- As an alternative to giving money
- To be a watchdog
- To feel proud
- To stand up and be counted

Motivation

We really can't motivate others; we can only provide situations which help others motivate themselves. These keys to effective motivation in volunteer groups, from **How to Motivate People in Volunteer Groups**, Cooperative Extension Service, The University of Arizona, Community Guide Motivation Series, will help.

1. **Provide a reason to participate.** People must perceive a reason for becoming involved. They, not you, must perceive the reason. Individuals will participate in different issues, activities, and groups only to the extent that their personal needs and interests are appealed to and met.
2. **Give recognition.** To be appreciated, to feel important and needed is a prime motivator in all of us. Encouragement and recognition are essential to stimulating and maintaining active involvement in volunteer groups.
3. **Clearly define and communicate your goals.** You motivate people by selling ideas, programs, and results – not membership. A group with a set of goals that are clearly understood and mutually accepted by its membership has an achieving force that is almost irresistible. Many groups, however, lack a clear sense of direction and as a result they wander in their efforts with limited accomplishment.
4. **Conduct meetings that stimulate.** Nothing is more discouraging than a poorly organized, rambling, unproductive meeting. Yet most of our meetings are exactly that. Productive meetings require more than a powerful leader and parliamentary procedure. It takes preparation, planning, and careful timing to keep an agenda on schedule.
5. **Value others through communication.** It is through communication that people are motivated. The way we express ourselves can either turn people on or turn them off. It can either gain their support or discourage their participation.
6. **Listen.** People want to be listened to. A person is motivated to achieve when he/she feels his/her ideas and suggestions are listened to and respected. The biggest cause of group apathy is the failure of you and me to really listen.
7. **Look at yourself.** The ability to understand others begins with an understanding of oneself. Ask yourself these questions: How did I get to be the person that I am? What motivates me to do the things I do? Why do I react in different ways to different people, situations, and things? Honest answers to these three questions can give you tremendous insight into what motivates others.
8. **Handle conflict creatively.** Disagreement and conflict can be very destructive forces if not dealt with constructively. Open free-for-alls can split a group right down the middle. Likewise, the suppressing of disagreement discourages new ideas and, in turn, the vitality the group so badly needs.
9. **Reduce risks of participation.** There are various hazards involved in group participation – being imposed upon by others, feeling insecure, being criticized, taking responsibility for decisions made, etc.

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Volunteerism for the Next Generation



What Motivates You?

Checking Your Charge: Motivation

1. a. When doing a job, I seek feedback.
 b. I prefer to work alone and am eager to be my own boss.
 c. I seem to be uncomfortable when forced to work alone.
2. a. I go out of my way to make friends with new people.
 b. I enjoy a good argument.
 c. After starting a task, I am not comfortable until it is completed.
3. a. Status symbols are important to me.
 b. I am always getting involved in group projects.
 c. I work better when there is a deadline.
4. a. I work best when there is some challenge involved.
 b. I would rather give orders than take them.
 c. I am sensitive to others – especially when they are angry.
5. a. I am eager to be my own boss.
 b. I accept responsibility eagerly.
 c. I try to get personally involved with my superiors.
6. a. I am uncomfortable when forced to work alone.
 b. I prefer being my own boss, even when others feel a joint effort is required.
 c. When given responsibility, I set measurable standards of high performance.
7. a. I am very concerned about my reputation or position.
 b. I have a desire to out-perform others.
 c. I am concerned with being liked and accepted.
8. a. I enjoy and seek warm, friendly relationships.
 b. I attempt complete involvement in a project.
 c. I want my ideas to predominate.
9. a. I desire unique accomplishments.
 b. It concerns me when I am being separated from others.
 c. I have a need and desire to influence others.
10. a. I think about consoling and helping others.
 b. I am verbally fluent.
 c. I am restless and innovative.
11. a. I set goals and think about how to attain them.
 b. I think about ways to change people.
 c. I think a lot about my feelings and the feelings of others.



MOTIVATIONAL ANALYSIS KEY

For each item above, circle the letter below that matches the choice you made.

- | | | | |
|----|----------------|-----|----------------|
| 1. | a. Achievement | 7. | a. Achievement |
| | b. Influence | | b. Influence |
| | c. Affiliation | | c. Affiliation |
| 2. | a. Achievement | 8. | a. Achievement |
| | b. Influence | | b. Influence |
| | c. Affiliation | | c. Affiliation |
| 3. | a. Achievement | 9. | a. Achievement |
| | b. Influence | | b. Influence |
| | c. Affiliation | | c. Affiliation |
| 4. | a. Achievement | 10. | a. Achievement |
| | b. Influence | | b. Influence |
| | c. Affiliation | | c. Affiliation |
| 5. | a. Achievement | 11. | a. Achievement |
| | b. Influence | | b. Influence |
| | c. Affiliation | | c. Affiliation |
| 6. | a. Achievement | | |
| | b. Influence | | |
| | c. Affiliation | | |

Add up the number of responses for each style and write your score below.

_____ Achievement _____ Affiliation _____ Influence

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Motives Affecting Behavior

What does the score from the previous exercise mean? These features highlight characteristics of the three groups of scores. Use them for better understanding of yourself and others.

ACHIEVEMENT MOTIVATED PERSON

Goal: success in a situation which requires excellence or improved performance.

Characteristics:

- Concern with excellence and wanting to do personal best; sets moderate goals and takes calculated risks
- Likes to take personal responsibility for finding solutions to problems
- Has desire to achieve unique accomplishments
- Restless and innovative – takes pleasure in striving
- Wants concrete feedback

Spends time Thinking About:

- Doing job better
- Accomplishing something unusual or important
- Goals and how he/she can attain them *and* obstacles and how he/she can overcome them

(To illustrate – Sir Isaac Newton was once asked how he ever discovered gravity and he matter-of-factly replied, “By thinking about it all the time!”)

AFFILIATION MOTIVATED PERSON

Goal: Being with someone else and enjoying mutual friendship.

Characteristics:

- Concerned with being liked and accepted – interpersonal relationships
- Needs warm and friendly relationships and interaction
- Concerned about being separated from other people (definitely not a loner)
- Wanting to be liked and how to achieve this

Spends time Thinking About:

- Consoling or helping people
- Warm and friendly relationships
- The feeling of others and him/herself

POWER/INFLUENCE MOTIVATED PERSON

Goal: Having impact or influence on others

Characteristics:

- Concern for reputation or position (and what people think of that power and influence.
- Gives advice (sometimes unsolicited)
- Strong feelings about status and prestige
- Strong need to influence others; to change other people’s behavior
- Often verbally fluent (sometimes argumentative)
- Seen by others as forceful and outspoken

Spends time Thinking About:

- Influence and impact he/she has over others and over situations

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Motivational Analysis Key

IDEAS ON MOTIVATION

(Adapted from McClelland and Atkinson)

TYPE OF MOTIVATION	PERSON'S CHARACTERISTICS	THIS PERSON SPENDS TIME THINKING ABOUT:
Achievement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excellence - Personal best - Takes risk - Unique accomplishment - Restless and innovative - Wants concrete feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Doing job better - Accomplishing the unusual - Advancing career - Attaining goal - Overcoming obstacles
Affiliation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concerned with being liked and accepted-interpersonal relationships - Need warm and friendly relationships - Not a loner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wanting to be liked and have to achieve it - Consoling or helping people - Warm and friendly relationships - The feelings of others and himself
Power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reputation - Position - Gives advice - Wants own ideas to predominate - Feel strong about, states prestige - Need to influence others - Verbally fluent - Forceful, outspoken, hard-headed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Influence and center over others - Using influence to win arguments, changes with people, gaining status, and authority



Motivation

Collect the names of the people in your group whose batteries are charged like yours

Motivation	The Best Kinds of Jobs for Them	Names
Affiliation	Direct client services Public relations and fund raising Training Personnel Support activities (mailings, etc.) done in groups	
Achievement	Fund raising Administration Training Financial (bookkeeping, etc.) Data gathering Professional tasks (lawyers, etc.)	
Power	Advocacy Policy making Fund raising Political action	



Volunteerism for the Next Generation



139 Ways to Say "Thank-You" and Recognize Volunteers

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Introduction

Coordinators of volunteer programs and non-profit agencies devote hours, effort, energy, and expense to planning, coordinating, and conducting recognition activities. Organizational volunteer recognition programs usually consist of publicly presenting extrinsic rewards to volunteers, based upon length of service (Culp & Schwartz, in press). Programmatic innovation or impact, quality of service, or contributions made by youth volunteers to the organization or its programs are often unheralded or unrewarded.

Recognition is defined as formal or informal, favorable attention given to the volunteer, to provide a sense of appreciation, security and belonging (Kwarteng, Smith and Miller, 1988). Recognition is not so much something you do as it is something you are. Recognition is a sensitivity to others as individuals, not a strategy for discharging obligations (Lake, 1995).

Determining which categories of recognition are most significant, as well as the specific types of recognition which are most meaningful to individual volunteers, however, is an open debate. Extrinsic recognition is recommended by Murk and Stephan, (1990), Steele, (1994), and Zeuschel and Hansel, (1989). Conversely, Kwarteng, Smith and Miller (1988) found that informal verbal recognition, praise and encouragement by others involved in the program was the most important factor in volunteer development and administration. Informal methods of recognizing volunteers, the contributions which they make to non-profit programs, and the resulting impact upon the program participants are frequently overlooked in place of more formal methods. However, informal volunteer recognition is often found to be more effective (Culp & Schwartz, in press; Holtham, 1989; Vineyard, 1981).

Nearly every volunteer administration model, including the Bridge from Dreams to Realities (Vineyard, 1980), the 4-H Leadership Development Model (Kwarteng, Smith & Miller, 1988), GEMS (Culp, Castillo, Deppe & Wells, 1997), ISOTURE (Boyce, 1971; Dolan, 1969), L-O-O-P (Penrod, 1991), the Volunteer Management Cycle (Lawson & Lawson, 1986), and the Volunteer Professional Model for Human Services Agencies and Counselors (Lenihan & Jackson, 1984) includes recognition as a key component. Most often, recognition activities are those which volunteer administrators plan and budget for; largely formal and extrinsic in nature.

Recognition is closely associated with motivation (Safrit, King & Smith, 1992). If volunteers are rewarded in meaningful, significant or relevant ways, then the volunteer administrator should consider the recognition program as successful. But the question remains, "Is the organization's current recognition model fulfilling the needs of the volunteers and thereby serving as an effective means of recognition?" Or "Is the organization's current recognition model merely an administrative exercise for the volunteer coordinator?"

McClelland (1955, 1962) identified three categories of motives which drive people to action. These include achievement, affiliation and power. All individuals are primarily influenced by one category of motives, although individuals may function differently at home and at work. Achievement motivated individuals are those who are both goal and task oriented, stay with tasks through completion, need tangible rewards, see problems as challenges, prefer specific parameters to evaluate success and see problems as challenges. Affiliation motivated individuals need personal interaction and work best in groups. They enjoy having personal relationships with supervisors and co-workers, work most easily with people whom they know well, seek socialization opportunities, need to be liked and listened to, and enjoy being involved in group projects. Power motivated individuals are those who need to impact and influence others. They can work either alone or with groups, enjoy teaching others, are able to respond to identified needs, are attentive to the goals of the organization, respond to titles which denote authority, will seek and accept positions of authority and responsibility, and are persuasive and self-starting.

Findings of a study conducted by the authors (Culp & Schwartz, in press) of tenured Ohio 4-H volunteers attending a state-wide recognition luncheon demonstrated that most volunteers are motivated to continue serving the organization by an affiliation with the clientele (4-H youth members) or the organization (4-H), rather than by achievement (recognition banquets and extrinsic rewards) or power (teaching, serving in leadership positions) motives. The recognition which most tenured 4-H volunteers in that study preferred was a simple hand-written thank-you note, sent by a 4-H member with whom they interacted.

4-H volunteers preferred intrinsic over extrinsic rewards, informal versus formal recognition, local versus state recognition events, and recognition from program participants rather than parents, program coordinators, dignitaries or officials. Therefore, the purpose of this paper is to identify ways to express appreciation and provide recognition to volunteers. Many of these are informal in nature, with most being either inexpensive or no-cost. Following is a listing of possible recognition alternatives.

- Send cards for personal achievements (birthday, anniversary, new arrival, promotion, graduation, etc.)
- Have an "at-home tea party." (Send volunteers a tea bag in a card and ask them to enjoy a cup of tea in the quiet of their own home.)
- Write a news article which is published in the local newspaper, highlighting their contribution or impact upon the program or clientele.
- Write a news article which is published in the organization's newsletter.
- Send a thank-you note.
- Smile.
- Send a holiday greeting card.
- Spontaneously say "thank-you" during a chance or planned meeting or gathering.
- Ask a volunteer for their input about a program or evaluation.
- Utilize a volunteer suggestion box. Carefully consider their suggestions!
- Ask a volunteer to serve in a leadership role.
- Present service stripes, candy sticks or candy canes with the message "You've earned your stripes!"
- Ask a volunteer to conduct an orientation or educational program.

- Have a soft drink party.
- Ask a volunteer to coordinate a program, event, or initiative.
- Shake hands.
- Plan a theme party (toga, costume, western, etc.)
- Give a pat-on-the-back.
- Invite volunteers to staff meetings. Encourage them to contribute and participate.
- Ask a volunteer to develop a window or table-top display to promote a program.
- Send a volunteer to a conference.
- Ask the volunteer to present a report, lesson, workshop, or seminar on some aspect of the conference which they attended.
- Cultivate volunteer's special interests. Whenever possible, encourage pursuit in their volunteer role.
- Utilize volunteer's unique special talents.
- Be flexible.
- Share the success or impact of one volunteer with others at a meeting or gathering.
- Provide extrinsic rewards (certificates, plaques, pins, etc.)
- Provide "perks" (free admission to paid events, free parking, etc.)
- Take an interest in their personal lives.
- Have a "volunteer of the month" award.
- Host a banquet, luncheon, dessert, tea, or reception in the volunteers' honor.
- Invite a volunteer out to lunch.
- Reimburse travel expenses.
- Establish a Volunteer Honor Roll.
- Provide volunteers with clerical or office support.
- Provide educational resources for the volunteers to utilize (videos, pamphlets, books, curriculum, etc.)
- Motivate and challenge them.
- Ask effective volunteers to each recruit another volunteer who is "just like them."
- Debrief with volunteers following a conference, program, or activity which they participated in or assisted with.
- Always use their first name.
- Provide special interest materials to targeted volunteers.
- Nominate a volunteer to teach a workshop at a conference or symposium.
- When the workshop is accepted, assist the volunteer in preparation.
- Label the office coffee pot in honor of an effective volunteer ("Vicki pours herself out for this organization!" or "Joe keeps things perking!")
- Greet each volunteer with enthusiasm and appreciation.
- Ask an effective volunteer to mentor a new recruit.
- Send Hershey's Kisses to your organization's volunteers.
- Provide useful and effective orientation for each volunteer position.
- Send peppermint candies to your organization's volunteers with the message "You're worth a mint!"
- Develop leadership skills and self-confidence.
- Ask a volunteer for their input or opinion.
- Recognize and share innovative suggestions or programs.
- Be patient.
- Recognize volunteers and program participants for community service activities.
- Take time to explain.

- Recognize volunteers for financial and philanthropic contributions.

- Build consensus. Build support.
- Recognize tenure.
- Practice the "Platinum Rule." ("Do unto others as they prefer being done unto.")
- Recognize the number of hours contributed to the agency, organization, or program.
- Ask a volunteer to speak on behalf of the program to an outside agency.
- Ask a volunteer to speak to a funder.
- Hold a rap session.
- Ask a volunteer to speak at a volunteer meeting.
- Run a photograph and news story in the local newspaper.
- Ask a volunteer to write a news article or news release.
- Foster personal growth.
- Ask a volunteer to make a television appearance or radio announcement.
- Provide scholarships to educational conferences or workshops.
- Enable a volunteer to move on to expanded or higher level responsibilities.
- Recognize the achievements or accomplishments of those with whom the volunteer works.
- Ask the volunteer to direct a membership recruitment campaign.
- Share the volunteer's personal success story
- Provide volunteers their own work area.
- Have a youth share a success story about the volunteer.
- Be respectful.
- Schedule monthly birthday bashes.
- Have a program participant share a success story about the volunteer.
- Provide transportation to meetings, events, educational workshops, and volunteer activities.
- Write letters of reference to prospective employers.
- Surprise a volunteer with a birthday cake.
- Utilize a volunteer as a consultant.
- Send flowers.
- Nominate volunteers for awards.
- Attend personal celebrations (birthdays, anniversaries, etc.)
- Take note of volunteers' children's accomplishments. Recognize them.
- Make home visits.
- Make sure that each volunteer is a "good fit" with their volunteer role.
- Let each volunteer know they were missed.
- Make telephone calls.
- Encourage program participants to send a thank-you note.
- Plan an organizational outing (picnic, theater, ball game, family day, pool party, etc.)
- Praise in public; especially in front of family and friends.
- Encourage program participants to send birthday and anniversary cards.
- Send get well cards.
- Have a birthday and anniversary column in your organizational newsletter.
- Send a note of congratulations for personal achievements.
- Send a note of congratulations for professional achievements and promotions.
- Send a thank-you note to the volunteer's spouse to thank him/her for sharing his/her

- spouse's time and talents with the organization.
- Send a thank-you note to the volunteer's employer, noting the impact and contribution which the volunteer has made. (If the employer does not provide release time to volunteer.)
- Send a thank-you note to the volunteer's employer to thank him/her for sharing the employee's time and talents with the organization. (If the employer provides release time to volunteer.)
- Recognize an employer with the volunteer publicly (if the employer provides release time for the employee, or allows the employee to utilize resources or support staff to serve.)
- Encourage other volunteers to express appreciation.
- Send volunteers an "Encouragemint".
- Ask volunteers to chaperone trips.
- Ask volunteers to judge competitions.
- Provide child care.
- Send hand-written notes.
- Secure complimentary gift certificates from businesses or the Chamber of Commerce.
- Print business cards for volunteers.
- Ask a volunteer to co-present with a salaried professional at a conference, workshop, or staff development.
- Promote effective volunteers to higher areas of volunteerism within your organization.
- Stage a potluck dinner in a volunteer's honor.
- Attend volunteers' meetings and activities.
- Bounce new ideas off of a volunteer.
- Involve volunteers in problem solving efforts.
- Organize a card shower.
- Plant a tree or flower bed in a volunteer's name.
- Contribute to a charity in a volunteer's name.
- Send spices, seasonings, or herbs with the note: "You are the spice of life!"
- Print and distribute bumper stickers.
- Provide caps or shirts to promote unity among the organization.
- Provide a golf cart for a volunteer to utilize during a fair, festival, golf outing, etc.
- Organize a holiday open house for your volunteers.
- Feature a volunteer in a slide show.
- Have reserved seating at any event.
- Provide favors at meetings or events.
- Direct newspaper reporters to worthy volunteers when writing a news story.
- Send balloons.
- Send candy.
- Surprise everyone by bringing donuts or fresh coffee cake.
- Send cookies.
- Encourage volunteers to assume community leadership roles.
- Give a volunteer a light bulb or candle with the message "You light up my life."
- Send valentines.
- Give calendars, notepads, pens, or pencils.
- Be pleasant and appreciative.

Anyone who offers to teach or facilitate a session on Volunteer Recognition at any conference can anticipate a large audience! One question which always arises is "How much does recognition cost?" Or "How much money should I budget for recognition activities?" Or our personal favorite, "My organization won't budget any money for volunteer recognition! How can I fund it?"

Our response to these questions is simple and straightforward. First, volunteer recognition doesn't have to cost anything. Volunteer recognition is not a straightforward checklist of things to do, awards to buy, and accolades to present. What volunteer recognition really is, is a state of mind. Recognition is realizing that everyone makes a contribution to the cause, and that everyone is a member of the same team. It's accepting people for who they are, understanding what they can offer, and doing our best, as volunteer coordinators, to effectively match the volunteer's unique talents, strengths and interests, with the role or responsibility for which they are best suited and can be most successful.

Secondly, we pose the philosophical question. "If you cannot afford to recognize your volunteers; indeed, if you cannot afford to fund a volunteer program, can you accomplish your goals, mission, and objectives without them?!" An effective volunteer recognition program is one which fulfills volunteer motives and improves volunteer retention. Because volunteers are motivated to serve by different stimuli, no single means of recognition will be appropriate in all situations or for all volunteers. An effective volunteer administrator will develop a broad-based recognition program which is ongoing, diverse, and fulfills a variety of needs and expectations.

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131 WAYS TO RECOGNIZE 4-H VOLUNTEERS

Ohio 4-H Volunteer Fact Sheet #40

Everyone likes to be appreciated for doing a good job. Recognition activities need not be formal, public, or expensive. Following is a list of informal recognition ideas, which are either inexpensive or no cost, which can be utilized to recognize 4-H volunteers.

Send cards for achievements (birthday, new arrivals, anniversary, promotion, graduation, etc.)
Write a news article for the local newspaper, highlighting a 4-H volunteer's contribution or impact.

Write a news article for the 4-H newsletter.

Send a thank-you note.

Smile.

Send a holiday greeting card.

Say "thank-you" during a meeting or gathering.

Ask a 4-H volunteer for their input about a program.

Utilize a 4-H volunteer suggestion box.

Ask a 4-H volunteer to serve in a leadership role.

Present service stripes, or candy canes with the message - You've earned your stripes!

Ask a 4-H volunteer to conduct a program.

Have a soft drink party.

Ask a 4-H volunteer to coordinate a program or event.

Shake hands.

Plan a theme party (toga, costume, western, etc.)

Give a pat-on-the-back.

Invite 4-H volunteers to staff meetings.

Encourage them to contribute and participate.

Ask a 4-H volunteer to develop a display.

Send a 4-H volunteer to a conference.

Ask the 4-H volunteer to present a report, or workshop, on some aspect of the conference.

Cultivate special interests. Find ways for 4-H volunteers to utilize their special interests.

Utilize 4-H volunteer's unique special talents.

Be flexible.

Share the success or impact of one 4-H volunteer with others at a meeting or gathering.

Provide certificates, plaques, pins, etc.

Provide "perks" (free admission, parking, etc.)

Take an interest in their personal lives.

Ask a 4-H volunteer to speak on behalf of the program to an outside agency.

Ask a 4-H volunteer to speak to a donor.

Hold a rap session.

Ask a 4-H volunteer to speak at a 4-H volunteer meeting.

Run a photograph and story in the local paper.

Have a "4-H volunteer of the month" award.

Host a banquet, luncheon, dessert, tea, or reception in the 4-H volunteers' honor.

Invite a 4-H volunteer out to lunch.

Reimburse gas money for club activities.

Establish a 4-H Honor Roll.

Provide educational resources for the 4-H volunteers to utilize (videos, pamphlets, books, and curriculum)

Be motivational and challenging.

Ask effective 4-H volunteers to each recruit another 4-H volunteer who is "just like them"

Debrief with 4-H volunteers following a conference, program, or activity, which they participated in.

Always use a person's first name.

Nominate a 4-H volunteer to teach a workshop at a conference or symposium.

Assist with workshop preparation.

Label the coffeepot. ("Vicki pours herself out for us!" or "Joe keeps things perking!")

Greet each 4-H volunteer with enthusiasm and appreciation.

Ask an effective 4-H volunteer to mentor a new recruit.

Send Hershey's Kisses.

Provide useful and effective orientation for each 4-H volunteer position.

Send peppermint candies with the message "You're worth a mint!"

Develop leadership skills and self-confidence.

Ask a 4-H volunteer for their input or opinion.

Recognize and share innovative suggestions or programs.

Be patient.

Recognize community service activities.

Take time to explain.

Send get well cards.

Recognize 4-H volunteers for financial and philanthropic contributions.

Build consensus and support.

Recognize tenure.

Practice the "Platinum Rule." ("Do unto others as they prefer being done unto.")

Recognize the impact of the number of hours contributed to the organization or program.

Ask a 4-H volunteer to write a news article or news release.

Foster personal growth.

Ask a 4-H volunteer to make a television appearance or radio announcement.

Provide scholarships to conferences.

Promote a 4-H volunteer to expanded or higher

level responsibilities.
 Recognize the achievements or accomplishments of those with whom the 4-H volunteer works.
 Ask the 4-H volunteer to direct a volunteership recruitment campaign.
 Share the 4-H volunteer's personal success story
 Provide 4-H volunteers their own work area.
 Be respectful.
 Schedule monthly birthday bashes.
 Have a program participant share a success story about the 4-H volunteer.
 Provide transportation.
 Write letters of reference.
 Surprise a 4-H volunteer with a birthday cake.
 Utilize a 4-H volunteer as a consultant.
 Send flowers.
 Nominate 4-H volunteers for awards.
 Attend personal celebrations (birthdays, anniversaries, etc.)
 Take note of 4-H volunteers' children's accomplishments. Recognize them.
 Make home visits.
 Make sure that each 4-H volunteer is a "good fit" with their leadership role.
 Let each 4-H volunteer know they were missed.
 Make telephone calls.
 Encourage clientele to send thank-you notes.
 Plan an organizational outing (picnic, theater, ball game, family day, pool party, etc.)
 Praise in public - especially in front of family and friends.
 Encourage program participants to send birthday and anniversary cards.
 Have a birthday column in your 4-H newsletter.
 Send a note of congratulations for personal and professional achievements.
 Send a thank-you note to the 4-H volunteer's parent.
 Recognize an employer with a 4-H volunteer.
 Send a thank-you note to the 4-H volunteer's employer acknowledging the employee's contribution.
 Encourage others to express appreciation.
 Send 4-H volunteers an "Encouragemint."
 Ask 4-H volunteers to chaperone trips.
 Ask 4-H volunteers to judge competitions.
 Provide childcare.
 Send hand-written notes.
 Give complimentary gift certificates.
 Print business cards for 4-H volunteers.
 Ask a 4-H volunteer to co-present a workshop.
 Stage a potluck dinner in a 4-H volunteer's honor.

Attend 4-H volunteers' activities and sporting events.
 Bounce new ideas off of a 4-H volunteer.
 Involve 4-H volunteers in problem solving efforts.
 Organize a card shower for a 4-H volunteer.
 Plant a tree or flowerbed in a 4-H volunteer's name.
 Contribute to a charity in a 4-H volunteer's name.
 Send spices with a note: "You're the spice of life!"
 Print and distribute bumper stickers.
 Provide caps or shirts to promote unity.
 Provide a golf cart for a 4-H volunteer to utilize during a fair, festival, golf outing, etc.
 Organize a holiday open house.
 Feature a 4-H volunteer in a slide show.
 Provide reserved seating at any event.
 Provide favors at meetings or events.
 Direct newspaper reporters to worthy 4-H volunteers when writing a news story.
 Send balloons.
 Send candy.
 Surprise everyone by bringing donuts.
 Send cookies.
 Encourage 4-H volunteers to provide leadership in their community.
 Give a 4-H volunteer a light bulb or candle with the message "You light up my life."
 Send valentines.
 Give calendars, notepads, pens, or pencils.
 Be pleasant and appreciative.

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