
Recognition

University of Minnesota students who do service-learning in your organization are like all other volunteers with your agency—they deserve recognition for the important work they do in the community. Just as in staff appreciation, recognition of students makes them feel valued and part of the working team.

Recognition does not have to be extravagant, rather consistent, sincere and creative methods are the most effective. Below are many ideas, as well as resources for other ideas.

- Events (i.e. dinners, teas, dessert buffets, potluck dinners) held during National Volunteer Recognition Week
- Thank you cards, an e-card sent on-line or in regular mail
- Articles on individual volunteers in organization newsletter
- Volunteer of the Month award
- Free coffee for on-site volunteers
- Name badges
- Articles about your volunteer(s) in the local newspaper
- Pizza party
- Gift certificates or coupons to local restaurants, theaters, or cultural events
- Know their names, the names of their partners, kids or pets and ask about how they are
- Birthday, anniversary and holiday cards
- Plaques in public areas
- Organization logo t-shirts, mug, pens, or notepads
- A newsletter for your volunteers
- Print names of all volunteers in weekly/monthly corporate/agency newsletter
- Recognize volunteers at events honoring paid staff service awards.
- Invite volunteers to participate in workshops and involve them as speakers
- Letter to the volunteer's family, employer, professor/instructor, academic advisor
- Articles on individual volunteers on the organization's Web site or even a Web page salute to volunteers
- A special parking spot for a month
- Arrange discounts for your volunteers at local shops
- Share outcome evaluation results with volunteers showing their impact on clients and programs
- Candy
- Photos of volunteers up in prominent spot in agency or in newsletter doing volunteer work
- Volunteer buttons and pins
- Highlight volunteer programs with pictures, stories and statistics on a bulletin board in your agency lobby Outstanding Service Award
- Develop a wall of fame
- Provide scholarships for workshops or conferences
- Nominate them for statewide awards
- Letters of recommendation
- Meals
- Future employment opportunities

Resources for Volunteer Recognition

Readings

101 Ideas for Volunteer Programs, by Steve McCurley & Sue Vineyard

Beyond Banquets, Plaques and Pins, by Sue Vineyard

Effective Ways to Recruit, Keep & Motivate Volunteers, by Linda Spaulding

Volunteer Recognition: How To Make It Work For You, by Jim Bottorf

Volunteer Recognition Skit Kit, by Arlene Grubbs & Evelyn Levine

Websites

Internet Nonprofit Center

<http://www.nonprofits.org/>

Points of Light Foundation

<http://www.pointsoflight.org>

Campus Outreach Opportunity League

<http://www.COOL2SERVE.org>

Volunteer Resource Center

http://www.volunteertwincities.org/resources/volunteer_awards.php