

Volunteer appreciation ideas

- 1. Send a handwritten thank you note, birthday, Christmas, thanksgiving**
Whether it be from the organization's Volunteer Manager, the CEO, a Board Member or somebody in the community who has benefited from the volunteer's efforts, a handwritten note can go a long way to making volunteers feel appreciated.
- 2. Feature Volunteers on social media**
A volunteer who has been instrumental in organizing community events, raising funds, and recruiting new volunteers for the organization could be nominated for a "Volunteer of the Year" award offered by the local council.
- 3. Present volunteers with a certification of appreciation**
Certificates of appreciation can be designed and printed in-house, be outsourced to a graphic designer, or created using pre-made templates so all you have to do is add your organization's logo and the name of the volunteer.
- 4. Provide snacks or treats during volunteer shifts**
Providing snacks during volunteer shifts could be as simple as having tea and coffee available, or providing something more substantial like fruit, cookies or chocolate bars.
- 5. Offer discounts to local businesses**
Your organization could partner with a local coffee shop to offer 10% off to volunteers who are wearing their volunteer t-shirt when they visit the shop. Or by partnering with a local car repair shop, volunteers could receive a free additional service such as a car wash and vacuum with every car service.
- 6. Offer a reimbursement for expenses**
If your volunteers need to buy public transport tickets to get to their shift, you could reimburse them for that cost. This helps to make volunteering more accessible and affordable.
- 7. Offer free training or workshops**
To support the professional and personal development of volunteers, your organization could offer training on subjects like computer skills, communication or conflict resolution. If a volunteer has an interest in a specific area such as gardening, they could be offered a place at a workshop being run by a horticulturist.
- 8. Offer to write volunteers a letter of recommendation**
If a volunteer is looking to gain experience in a specific field or seeking employment offering to write them a letter of recommendation can be incredibly helpful.
- 9. Present a volunteer of the month award**
A volunteer who has shown exceptional dedication and outstanding work during a particular month can be named "Volunteer of the Month". Their achievements can be shared on [social media](#), and on the organization's [website](#).

10. Highlight volunteers in the organization's newsletter

The organization's newsletter could profile volunteers, highlighting their contributions, achievements, and impact on the organization and the community.

11. Offer volunteers a seat on a board or committee

To recognize a volunteer who has shown exceptional leadership skills, or fundraising ability, the volunteer could be offered a seat on the organization's board or a sub-committee.

12. Update facilities in the volunteer lounge or break room

Adding comfortable chairs, tables, and bean bags to the volunteer lounge/break room or painting the walls with bright colors and inspirational quotes helps to create a relaxing and inspiring environment for volunteers. A coffee machine could also help to improve the experience of volunteers.

13. Create a volunteer wall of fame

A "Wall of Fame" of volunteers who have made significant contributions to the organization could be displayed in the organization's office or on its website. The wall could feature photos and short bios of the volunteers, and a summary of their contributions and achievements.

14. Create personalized volunteer business cards

Business cards for volunteers could include the organization's logo, the volunteer's name, and their role or area of expertise within the organization.

15. Send volunteers a personalized thank you video

A staff member from the organization could record a video message thanking the volunteer for their time and dedication to the organization. The video could also include a message from people the volunteer's efforts has helped.

16. Provide a volunteer mentorship program

a volunteer mentorship program is an initiative that pairs experienced volunteers with new volunteers. The experienced volunteer acts as a mentor, providing guidance and support to the new volunteer as they navigate their role and responsibilities within the organization.

17. Certificate of achievement

a certificate of achievement for volunteers is a formal certificate printed on high-quality paper, and includes the organization's logo, the volunteer's name, and the achievement being recognized. For example, a "Certificate of Achievement for Outstanding Volunteer Service".

18. Feature volunteers on the organization's blog or website

a dedicated section on the organization's website is a good way of displaying the work and impact of volunteers. The section could include a profile of volunteers, their photo, their role, and a description of their achievements and contributions to the organization.

19. Present volunteers with a thank you card signed by the organization's beneficiaries

a thank-you card signed by the organization's beneficiaries can express the impact that volunteers have made in their lives. An organization that works with children with disabilities could have the children draw pictures or write thank-you notes for the volunteers who help them.

20. Circulate a survey to get feedback

an organization can send a survey to its volunteers to gather feedback about the volunteer experience. The survey could cover topics such as things that work well, suggestions for improvement, and whether volunteers feel their skills and expertise are being used appropriately.

21. Send volunteers the organization's annual report

an organization can send its annual report to volunteers so that volunteers are aware of the impact the organization is having on the community. The report could also include information about the organization's financials and plans for the upcoming year.

22. Social media photo filters

Social media photo filters can be created for volunteers to use on their social media profiles. The filters could include images relevant to the organization's cause, along with a message of gratitude.

23. LinkedIn endorsement

a representative of the organization could provide a LinkedIn endorsement to a volunteer who has been instrumental in developing and implementing a successful fundraising campaign. This endorsement would highlight the volunteer's skills in fundraising and could lead to additional career opportunities.

24. Nominate volunteers for local council, state or federal awards

A volunteer who has been instrumental in organizing community events, raising funds, and recruiting new volunteers for the organization could be nominated for a "Volunteer of the Year" award offered by the local council.

Volunteer Appreciation Gift ideas

25. Gift voucher for a massage or spa treatment

as a way of recognizing and rewarding effort, an organization could offer a gift voucher for a massage or spa treatment to a volunteer who has gone beyond in their role.

26. T-shirts

an organization can create branded t-shirts for its volunteers. The t-shirts could be given to volunteers as a thank-you gift and a way to identify them during events or activities.

27. Personalized name badges

providing volunteers with personalized name badges can help others identify them and help make them feel like a valuable part of the team.

28. Free admission to an event

Event organizers can offer free admission to volunteers who help with tasks like setting up stages, distributing flyers, and managing crowds as a reward for volunteering.

29. Free admission to an attraction

Event organizers can offer free admission to volunteers who help with tasks like setting up stages, distributing flyers, and managing crowds as a reward for volunteering.

30. Voucher to use at a local restaurant

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31. Photo album of volunteers

the organization could create a photo album of their volunteers in action and present it to them as a thank you gift. The album could include photos of the volunteers engaging in various activities such as helping with events, fundraising, or working with beneficiaries.

32. Present volunteers with a framed photo of them in action

if you do not have enough photos for a whole album, a framed photo of a volunteer in action makes a great gift.

33. Personalized items

a personalized notebook or journal, key ring, tote bag, back pack desk accessory, clock or watch; could have the organization's logo or mission statement on. This is a practical and thoughtful gift for volunteers to use during their volunteering activities or to keep as a memento of their time with the organization.

34. Treat them to a coffee

Volunteers could be invited to a special coffee morning at a local café where they can meet and socialize with other volunteers and staff members from the organization.

Volunteer Appreciation event ideas

35. Host a volunteer appreciation breakfast

a breakfast could be held at a local restaurant or at the organization's headquarters and should include a variety of breakfast foods and drinks. During the breakfast, volunteers could be acknowledged and thanked for their contributions, and the organization's leadership team could share updates on the organization's activities and plans.

36. Host a volunteer appreciation picnic

a picnic could be set up in a nearby park with the organization providing food and drinks for the volunteers to enjoy. The picnic could also include fun activities and games to make the event more enjoyable.

37. Provide a volunteer VIP area at an event

a music festival could set up a volunteer VIP area with comfortable seating, free snacks and drinks, and a prime viewing area of the festival's main stage.

38. Host a volunteer appreciation concert

Bring in local musicians or bands to put on a concert for your volunteers. The concert can be held indoors or outdoors depending on the weather and number of attendees.

39. Host a volunteer appreciation BBQ

an appreciation BBQ can be held at a local park or community center and include food, music, games and prizes.

40. Trivia night

This could be either a general knowledge quiz, or a quiz night where volunteers can test their knowledge about the organization's mission, history, or accomplishments. Prizes could be awarded to the winning team or individuals.

41. Yoga or meditation session

The session could be led by a qualified instructor and held in a tranquil environment, such as a park or a yoga studio.

42. Sports match

A friendly sports game or tournament can be organized for volunteers to participate in and compete with each other. Some sports to consider are basketball, football and golf.