



RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEERS

FROM THE FAITH INITIATIVE OF THE POINTS OF LIGHT FOUNDATION
TIP SERIES #: RRN11

Efforts to maintain and build your volunteer base are strengthened by showing volunteers how much you appreciate all that they do for your project and your community.

Try thinking “outside the box” when rewarding your volunteers. Give them something other than a traditional certificate or plaque.

What things might hold special meaning to volunteers? Can you provide them with free child care? How about giving them tickets to the movies, an amusement park, or gift certificates to a restaurant? Ask a local business to contribute a free basket of groceries. Something as simple as a bouquet of flowers or a special hand written note are also excellent ways of showing your appreciation.

Volunteers who have made remarkable contributions to their communities should be nominated for national and local volunteer awards. The Points of Light Foundation website provides information on the following awards: (www.pointsoflight.org/awards)

- The Daily Points of Light Award
- The President’s Volunteer Service Award
- National Family Volunteer Awards
- Awards for Excellence in Workplace Volunteer Programs
- Local awards coordinated by your Volunteers Centers

Also recognize your outstanding volunteers during **National Volunteer Week, April 17-23**. For certificates, logos, and more, visit www.pointsoflight.org/programs/seasons/nvw

The ways you recognize volunteers are endless! Be creative and have fun with rewards and events to recognize your volunteers, this month and all year long.

To find out more on volunteer recognition, contact Toyja Somerville, Director of Recognition Programs, at tsomerville@pointsoflight.org.

TIPS

- **Host a community block party or picnic for volunteers and their families. Plan to hold one recognition event per year.**
- **Give school supplies to young volunteers.**
- **Send volunteers a framed photograph from the service event.**
- **Provide volunteers with a letter of recommendation or reference for employment.**
- **Work with local media to highlight outstanding volunteer stories.**
- **Empower volunteers by involving them in appropriate organizational decision making.**
- **Secure a proclamation from your governor or mayor to honor a special volunteer.**
- **Order recognition items at www.VolunteerResource.org**



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&
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