



# 100 Ways to Thank Your Volunteers



# Why Say Thanks?

As a nonprofit, you already know the value of having awesome volunteers, so we wanted to provide you with several ways (100 of them to be exact!) to show your appreciation.

Showing heart-felt appreciation is not only the right thing to do, but its an effective and easy way to establish loyal volunteers and attract new supporters to your organization! On average, people who volunteer for a nonprofit are 4x more likely to donate to that organization than someone who doesn't volunteer (and they give 10x as much)! So, let's get started!



---

# Reach Out

---

- 1 Jot down a little thank you note and leave it in your volunteer's bag before they leave their shift.
- 2 Send them a personalized thank you email referencing specifically what they've done that you appreciate.
- 3 Give your volunteer a hug or high five!
- 4 Ask them about themselves and get to know them personally. Knowing that you care about them as more than just a number will go a long way!
- 5 Send them a card from the individuals that their volunteer time helps to support.
- 6 Give them a thank you shout-out via social media.
- 7 The next time you see them in person, take them aside and communicate face-to-face how much you appreciate specific things they've done.
- 8 Take a photo of your volunteers in action and send it to them!



- 9 Once they leave from a volunteer shift, shoot them a quick text telling them you couldn't have done it without them (emojis encouraged)!
- 10 Give them a call to say thank you! If they don't pick up, leave a heartfelt message.
- 11 Acknowledge when they've gone above and beyond by holding a Thank-A-Thon. Ask each board member to personally email or call a certain number of volunteers.



---

## Include Them

---

- 12 Add them to your email distribution list.
- 13 Invite them to upcoming events at your organization or community events that you'll be attending.
- 14 Keep them updated on internal happenings.
- 15 Share your accomplishments and attribute your successes to them!
- 16 Invite them to coffee or brunch.

- 17** Invite them to simply stop on by the office.
- 18** Ask stellar volunteers to help you train new volunteers.
- 19** Refer to your volunteers as friends or even as family!
- 20** Invite them to participate in a team photo to display on your website.
- 21** Add names of exceptional volunteers to a volunteer appreciation page on your website.
- 22** Invite them in on discussions amongst your staff.
- 23** Request their ideas and make changes accordingly.
- 24** Use inclusive language when talking about your organization.



---

# Accommodate Them

---

- 25** Ask about their communication preferences and react accordingly!

- 26** Ask about their skills and desired activities before assigning them to any.
- 27** Provide a safe, healthy and FUN work environment.
- 28** Provide a variety of volunteer activities to choose from.
- 29** Be flexible with your volunteers' schedules.
- 30** Create a volunteer policy.
- 31** Provide healthy snacks and drinks!
- 32** Ask them what you can do to make their volunteer experience more enjoyable. Then do it!
- 33** Ask for feedback and listen to complaints gracefully.
- 34** Encourage volunteers to bring friends to help them have fun and feel more comfortable during their shift.
- 35** Provide car or bike parking - if possible - for volunteers.
- 36** Designate someone (staff or super-volunteer) who can answer questions of new volunteers, work directly with them and help the shifts go smoothly.
- 37** Schedule and encourage breaks if your tasks extend beyond one hour.
- 38** Try to find tasks that families can do together despite their age.

- 39** Entrust loyal volunteers with more independence and autonomy while they're working.



# Delight Them

---

- 40** Greet your volunteers by their first name.
- 41** Pay compliments - make your volunteers feel good!
- 42** Show consistent and genuine gratitude.
- 43** Be mindful not to overwork your volunteers.
- 44** Provide your volunteers with positive motivation (prizes, inspirational messages, etc).
- 45** Ask how they're doing personally.
- 46** Surprise them with their favorite food!
- 47** Always show respect.
- 48** Make sure you always have enough (but not too much!) work for them to do.
- 49** Invite them to join your staff for lunch/coffee breaks.
- 50** Encourage a fun and easygoing work atmosphere.

- 51 Create a special way of introducing new volunteers to the group.
- 52 Create a special way of saying goodbye to long-term volunteers before they leave.



# Give (or Make) Them Something Snazzy

---

- 53 Frame a photo of your volunteer in action, of your staff or of the people that your organization helps to support.
- 54 Give out small gift cards to the best local eateries. It's not the amount that matters - it's the thought!
- 55 Create a volunteer appreciation wall.
- 56 Make a special Thank You animated GIF (it's easier than you might think!) and send to their email.
- 57 Give them a special coffee mug with a message or theme that represents your organization's cause.



- 58** Plan anniversary gift for each year of their involvement.
- 59** Send a digital scrapbook or slideshow showing all that they've helped you accomplish that month/quarter/year.
- 60** Send a special VIP invite in the mail for your next event before your public announcement.
- 61** Arrange discounts for volunteers at local shops.
- 62** Send them a birthday card on their birthday!
- 63** Give long-term volunteers a special memento or award to commemorate their dedication.
- 64** Try to always have a variety of branded items in stock to give away freely. There are tons to choose from (ex. magnets, keychains, pens, lights, notepads and more)!
- 65** Bonus points if your branded items display an inspirational quote or your mission statement instead of just your logo!
- 66** Customize their volunteer name tag.
- 67** Curate a gift basket for them.
- 68** Send them a handmade thank-you card. These are often very meaningful to their recipients!
- 69** Every volunteer loves getting a free t-shirt when they volunteer for a fundraising event! Plan ahead by asking which size and style they'd like.

- 70** Give your volunteers a potted plant or bouquet of flowers!
- 71** Surprise your volunteer with a set of tickets to their favorite theater, sports game, or concert!



# Host an Appreciation Event

---

- 72** Arrange a wine and cheese tasting.
- 73** Host a dessert buffet or ice cream social to thank volunteers for being so “sweet”!
- 74** When you finish a particular project, host a slideshow event where volunteers can see photos of themselves working as well as the impact their efforts have made on the lives of others.
- 75** Invite volunteers to a Behind the Scenes event and give them a tour of your whole facility.

- 76** Treat your volunteers to a little pizza party after your event. Invite both the day crew and the cleanup crew!
- 77** Hold a theme-based event that resonates with your cause (ex. An animal shelter may host a Dog Parade).
- 78** Host a summer BBQ or picnic. Ask volunteers to bring friends and family members.
- 79** Honor volunteers with an appreciation event. Give out small plaques and highlight what they've helped to make possible.
- 80** Bonus points if you host an event on a national or international volunteer holiday!



# Be a Personal Promoter

---

- 81** Thank them on Twitter and @mention the volunteer or volunteer group.
- 82** Thank them on Facebook. Don't forget to tag them!

- 83 Thank volunteers on their wall on GiveGab.
- 84 Print a banner that you can showcase with the names of your volunteers on them.
- 85 Offer to put a volunteer's name on something they helped out with.
- 86 Feature awesome, loyal volunteers in your newsletter!
- 87 Nominate your volunteers for community awards.
- 88 Brag about how great your volunteers are in public.
- 89 Add quotes from your volunteers to your website, social media posts, and/or printed materials.
- 90 Share photos on social media of your volunteers in action!



# Contribute to Their Careers

- 91 Remind volunteers to add their experience on their resume.
- 92 Make it easy for volunteers to find and reference their volunteering history (GiveGab automates this).

- 93** Offer to be a work reference when they apply for jobs.
- 94** Endorse your volunteers for their skills on LinkedIn.
- 95** Create a special certificate for those who have volunteered numerous hours.
- 96** Ask what skills your volunteers would like to improve on that you can assist with.
- 97** Educate volunteers about how their experience with your organization can help when looking for jobs.
- 98** When a staff position opens on your team, look through your volunteer pool before posting the opportunity elsewhere.
- 99** Write letters of recommendation for student volunteers looking to enter the job force.
- 100** Be a mentor for your volunteers by being a positive example!



# GiveGab<sup>®</sup>

## Nonprofit Giving Platform

GiveGab helps nonprofit leaders, like you, engage with supporters and raise funds online by providing a simple, yet powerful, online giving platform.

Unlimited customizable fundraising campaigns make raising money easy, attractive, and fun!

Plus, GiveGab is more than a platform; we are a team of people who donate, volunteer and fundraise on behalf of nonprofits like yours, so we know the value of the incredible work you're doing.

Try us out for free at  
[www.GiveGab.com](http://www.GiveGab.com)