

Recognising Volunteers – Ideas

Volunteers need to feel both valued and valuable. The following provides ideas around volunteer recognition strategies.

- Appoint a volunteer coordinator – or multiple volunteer coordinators who have as part of their role to support, recognise and praise the efforts of volunteers.
- Acknowledge volunteers at the beginning of their volunteer role. A simple hello and thanks for being here is often sufficient.
- Welcome letters when volunteers are first recruited. Provision of a Volunteer Handbook and adequate induction.
- Personal praise to volunteers while they are on the job.
- Use the public address system to acknowledge the various volunteers at a venue.
- Thank you letters, cards on the completion of the task.
- Ask the members to thank the volunteers personally, encourage juniors to thank their parents.
- List active volunteers on the club notice board in a public show of thanks.
- Develop a years of service list of volunteers to display on your website.
- Conduct Club Champions, Club Legends programs which recognizes long term extraordinary volunteer efforts.
- Include volunteers in decision making e.g. invite them to meetings/planning days.
- Invite volunteers to make contributions to the newsletter.
- Acknowledge volunteer efforts at the AGM, presentation evenings.
- Certificates and/or awards for volunteers e.g. Life Membership.
- Volunteer of the Month Awards, photos of outstanding volunteer contributions.
- Enter outstanding volunteers into community based recognition awards.
- Write an article in the club newsletter about outstanding efforts of volunteerism.
- Reimburse volunteers for their out of pocket expenses. Consider honorariums/gifts for those who need to give large amounts of their time.
- Fund or part fund training for volunteers.
- Encourage volunteers to include their volunteering on the CVs.
- Name an event after an outstanding volunteer.
- Organise a function for all volunteers throughout the year.
- Offer reductions in fees or entry to events for volunteers.
- Give volunteers club merchandise e.g. caps, t-shirts.
- Develop a culture within your club that truly values its volunteers.
- Recognise your volunteers during National Volunteer Week
- Celebrate International Volunteers Day – December 5