

Additional Ways to Recognize Volunteers

- Write a news article which is published in the local newspaper, highlighting their contribution or impact upon the program.
- Write a news article which is published in the unit's newsletter.
- Send cards for personal achievements (birthday, anniversary, new arrival, promotion, graduation, etc.)
- Have an "at-home tea party." (Send volunteers a tea bag in a card and ask them to enjoy a cup of tea in the quiet of their own home.)
- Send a thank-you note or tell the volunteer "Thank You"
- Spontaneously say "thank-you" during a chance or planned meeting or gathering.
- Share the success or impact of one volunteer with others at a meeting or gathering.
- Invite a volunteer out to lunch.
- Establish a Volunteer Honor Roll.
- Run a photograph and news story in the local newspaper.
- Write letters of reference to prospective employers.
- Surprise a volunteer with a birthday cake.
- Praise in public; especially in front of family and friends.
- Stage a potluck dinner in a volunteer's honor.
- Have reserved seating at any event.

Appreciation

Volunteers like to be appreciated for what they do for the FRG. Some are interested in doing things that are beneficial for people they care about. But even those who profess not to be driven by recognition need to be praised for their efforts. In addition to the FRG leader's positive attitude, kindness, and helpful leadership, there isn't much else to motivate volunteers. Recognition is so easy to give, too. So, give it often. It's good leadership, and it's the right thing to do.

Important times to recognize FRG volunteers include:

- Completion of a special project or event
- Birthdays
- National Volunteer Week, held every April
- When the military mission is complete and troops return
- Before a volunteer transfers or resigns