

Volunteer Recognition Ideas



- ⇒ Provide them with apparel, such as t-shirts, hats, etc.
- ⇒ Give them a desk or designated space to work at your department.
- ⇒ Become a certifying organization and nominate them for the [President's Volunteer Service Award](#).
- ⇒ Surprise them with a special meal to say “thank you.”
- ⇒ Designate a yearly day as “Fire Corps Day” at your department.
- ⇒ Give them a designated parking spot.
- ⇒ Write a handwritten note to volunteers deserving recognition.
- ⇒ Give a handwritten note to your volunteers’ spouses sharing how thankful you are for their significant other’s time/efforts.
- ⇒ Encourage people who have been impacted by the volunteers to send them a thank you note.
- ⇒ Prepare a short video montage that celebrates their accomplishments; can include people they have helped expressing their gratitude and how they impacted their lives.
- ⇒ Recognize their birthdays.
- ⇒ Start a station “wall of fame” and add them to it.
- ⇒ Provide awards/certificates that they can frame to recognize a job well done.
- ⇒ Host a volunteer appreciation day once a month and/or quarterly thank you events (potluck luncheons and cookouts); include teambuilding exercises.
- ⇒ Celebrate anniversaries of when your volunteers joined Fire Corps.
- ⇒ Host an annual award ceremony for your volunteers’ contributions.
- ⇒ Create an annual scrapbook or yearbook honoring their service.
- ⇒ If your program works with local schools, ask teachers to have their students make posters thanking the volunteers by name.
- ⇒ Write a news article honoring volunteers that is published in the organization’s newsletter or local media.
- ⇒ Recognize them on the department’s social media.
- ⇒ If someone has done something really outstanding, recognize them for it at the next meeting with a standing ovation.
- ⇒ Give gift certificates to local restaurants or tickets to a local event.



- ⇒ Send a note of congratulations for personal and professional achievements.
- ⇒ Ask a volunteer to co-present with your staff at a workshop, conference, or crew development event.
- ⇒ Promote effective volunteers to higher areas of volunteerism within your organization or assign special projects.
- ⇒ Plant a tree or flowerbed in their honor.
- ⇒ Contribute to a charity selected by the volunteers.
- ⇒ Host an event to bring the volunteers' families together.
- ⇒ Let them be recognized on a float in the community parade.
- ⇒ Contact the Governor in your state and ask for a State Fire Corps resolution to be made and honor volunteers on that day.
- ⇒ Honor volunteers at local-level township, village, or city meetings.
- ⇒ Introduce and praise them to key leaders, such as the mayor or government representatives.
- ⇒ Design a vanity plate for the front of their car or visor.
- ⇒ Send a thank you note to the volunteer's employer noting the impact and contribution that the volunteer has made.
- ⇒ Recognize volunteers' children's or families' accomplishments.
- ⇒ Provide collar pins for levels of service hours.
- ⇒ Reward dedication by giving out quality gifts (one, five, 10-year anniversaries).
- ⇒ Provide recognition gifts for volunteers with the most hours contributed.
- ⇒ Send volunteers to trainings/classes they would like to attend.
- ⇒ Send holiday cards.
- ⇒ Host showers for special events in their lives, such as weddings or births.
- ⇒ Give a "Best New Idea" award to encourage your volunteers to think outside the box with their activities, even if it does not pan out.
- ⇒ Ask them for a new idea on what they would like to do with Fire Corps; if possible, give them the tools they need to make it happen.
- ⇒ After a successful event, go out for ice cream to celebrate.
- ⇒ When a volunteer experiences a personal loss or hardship, have members of the department take turns preparing and delivering meals to the volunteer and their family.
- ⇒ Recognize them in front of the department's first-responder personnel.