

Ways to Reward Your Volunteer

- Say “thank you” often
- Hold a public recognition event, or recognize volunteers and present them a certificate in connection with a regularly scheduled meeting or event, such as a board meeting, staff party or public education program
- Provide tangible evidence that their efforts have made a difference
- Invite them to a board meeting and ask them to report on their project
- Acknowledge volunteer contributions in organization publications, such as newsletters and annual reports Ask them to chair a working committee
- Ask their advice on management issues in which they have expertise, or ask them to train others Act as a reference, or write reference letters on their behalf as requested
- Offer training opportunities, or invite them to attend relevant community meetings for learning and networking
- Send a hand-written thank you card to their home
- Hold an open house or cocktail reception which includes a public recognition of volunteers
- Include them in staff activities as much as is practical and as the culture of your organization will allow: invite them to attend staff meetings, staff outings and parties, include them in staff communications, emails, etc.
- Take them to lunch
- Give a gift
- Consider a financial reward or stipend, within IRS regulations for reporting taxable income.