

36 Ways to Encourage Volunteers

- Learn their love language, then speak it.
- Get their favorite coffee one morning.
- Write a top-ten list... 10 reasons I am thankful for you, 10 qualities I see in you, 10 most memorable moments serving with you.
- Give them a day off.
- Highlight a volunteer in a monthly letter or email by sharing a great quality or act of service.
- Have lunch with them... and pay.
- Offer your volunteers a beverage cart with water bottles, coffee, soft drinks, or a light snack.
- Take time to really get to know them.
- Share positive comments about what is happening in your area. So if someone says something nice, share!
- Offer a free childcare "date night" for volunteers with small children.
- Little gifts (coffee cups, shirts, etc.) can be a great way to show appreciation, especially when they are unexpected!
- Have a team get-together (meal or cookout) once every six months or so.
- Send an encouragement text when you think of them.
- Buy some special supplies they can use in their role (special lanyard, craft to use with their kids, new team t-shirt).
- Praise the little things you notice.
- Say thanks as often as possible.
- Thanks a "latte" note with a gift card for a cup of coffee/latte.
- Provide a meal for them when they're sick.



- Attendance raffle. Every time they show up put their name in a hat. At the end of the month, pull a name for a prize.
- “Shout out” on Sunday announcements.
- Recognize a need they have and meet it. For example, a meal, carpool, etc.
- Flowers! Brighten up your volunteer gathering area.
- Drop off a small gift off at their house.
- Send encouraging emails. Let them know what they are doing is so appreciated.
- Get written or video thank you's from the people they serve.
- Hand-written note of encouragement.
- Pray for one another, give hugs and smiles and ask how the person is doing and if they have any needs or concerns.
- Use social media to encourage them.
- Provide breakfast before their service.
- Host a potluck dinner and include families – have fun outdoor games like corn hole and ladder golf.
- Create community and real relationships with the people on your team.
- Listen to them: why are they serving on your team? What keeps them coming back? What do they think you could be doing better?
- Doughnuts!
- Give them seasonal devotional materials to encourage their spiritual growth.
- Chocolate!
- Call volunteers and check in on them just because.