



## Valuing your Volunteers

Volunteers are crucial to the operations of not-for-profit organisations.

So .... it is essential to find ongoing ways to acknowledge the contribution and commitment of volunteers.

### Volunteer Recognition Mechanisms

Volunteers can be acknowledged through cash or non-cash benefits including:

- Honorariums - An honorarium is a cash reward for voluntary services or a fee for professional services voluntarily provided.
- Reimbursements - A reimbursement is compensation for expenses incurred in the course of volunteer duties.
- Non-cash benefits – A range of non-cash benefits, such as events, training and certificates can be used to recognise volunteers.

### Some acknowledgement tips

Go that little bit extra	Keep a record of volunteer birthdays and send out birthday cards to volunteers.
Establish a reward program	Create a volunteer honour board. Distribute monthly service certificates. Approach local businesses to sponsor a monthly raffle for the organisation's volunteers.
Training and Learning	Identify and promote free training opportunities. Source funding for training and learning opportunities.
Nominations	Find out about local award programs and nominate the organisation's volunteers. Develop an organisational volunteer award program.
Host a Thank You Event	Organise regular thank you events. Organise occasional social events e.g. BBQ, Outing, Picnic for volunteers. Organise an end-of-year event for volunteers.
Public Acknowledgement	Use your promotional materials to acknowledge volunteers. For example: Thank You Volunteers page on the group's website. Generate news for the local newspaper on volunteers' stories, volunteer activities and volunteer successes.

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