

Ways to Give Recognition to Volunteers.....

1. Say Thank You!
2. Smile!
3. Have a suggestion box!
4. Have special treats at meetings, especially last meetings, ie: Ice Cream Sundaes or Chocolate Fondue.
5. Reimburse assignment related expenses
6. Ask for a report
7. Send birthday cards
8. Arrange for discounts or coupons
9. Maintain a coffee bar
10. Plan blessings and recognitions
11. Use "Highs and Lows" to open a meeting-get to know each other and what is important in their life.
12. Accommodate schedules as much as possible-ie team teaching
13. Provide child care for meetings
14. Respect their wishes
15. Challenge them
16. Recognize their families-send a letter of recognition to the family
17. Greet them by name
18. Provide initial and continuing education. (If you are small, partner with a neighboring congregation)
19. Take time to explain
20. Review the history of why you do what you do....
21. Give additional responsibilities as a reward
22. Share your good ideas on the NEIA Synod website (www.neiasynod.org)
23. Have a picnic
24. Have a get to know you column in your newsletter, feature council members, Sunday school teachers, and high school seniors for example.
25. Write job descriptions
26. Have clear expectations
27. Avoid using the word volunteer-this is the ministry of the baptized
28. Evaluate the program-use their input.
29. Maintain safe working environments, including offering "Safeguarding God's Children" trainings.
30. Identify spiritual gifts and put the right person in the right seat on the 'bus'.
31. Remind each other that gossip breaks the eighth commandment, and destroys groups
32. Tell someone who has been missing, that you miss them.
33. Write them thank you notes, especially when they have gone above and beyond.
34. Create a mentor program for new ministry volunteers.
35. Make sure they have the tools they need for the job.
36. Pray for them by name...publicly
37. Say thank you!

