

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Tips for Recognizing Volunteers

Recognize and reward volunteers for their time and experience. How you recognize volunteers is an important ingredient in retaining them. Recruitment, recognition and retention are all tied together.

1. Recognition can be both formal and informal.
2. Recognition should be consistent, appropriate and meaningful.
3. Recognition is individual.

Formal Recognition

- Invite all volunteers to the annual Northumberland Food For Thought Appreciation Breakfast and to the end-of-year, school hosted, volunteer gathering
- Thank volunteers with flowers, cards, certificates or pins
- Recognize a volunteer's birthday or other significant events
- Profile a volunteer each month in the school newsletter or on the bulletin board
- Invite the media for special events
- Have students create an appreciation card or a poster of thanks

Informal Recognition

- Don't wait for a formal opportunity to thank volunteers. Everyone likes to be acknowledged for a job well done
- Thank volunteers on a regular basis
- Listen to the ideas and suggestions from volunteers and use them in the program
- Encourage students to thank the volunteers
- Provide opportunities for the Principal and teachers to visit the program and show their appreciation
- Keep in touch with all volunteers
- Ensure that you involve everyone who has agreed to help

