# Effective Volunteer Programs

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## What type of Volunteers do you have?

**Boards** 

Committees

**Programs** 

**Events** 







# Goals

- ► Identify Common Denominators of Successful Programs
- ► Conduct a Volunteer Program Assessment
- ▶ Identify Recruitment, Engagement & Retention Tools



## **Common Denominators**

Mission Driven Activities
Targeted Recruitment
Ease of Volunteering
Training/Orientation
Specific Roles and Responsibilities

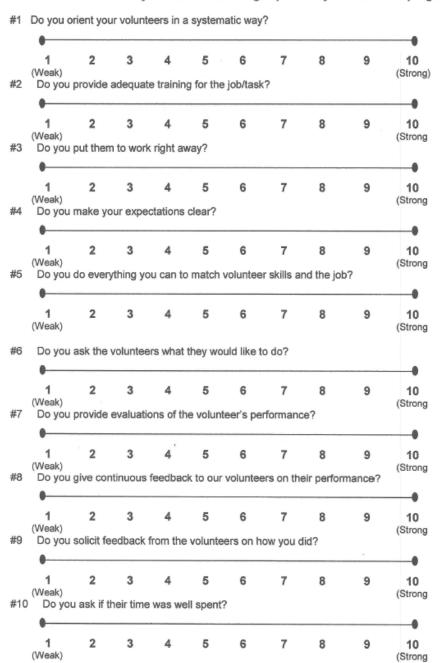


## **Common Denominators**

Job Descriptions
Recognition/Retention Methods
Organizational Growth
Board/Volunteer Development
Assessments/Evaluations



#### How would you rate the following aspects of your volunteer program?





## Recruitment

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Recruiting, Retaining and Rewarding Volunteers

#### Marketing for Volunteers Worksheet

- At right, indicate the volunteer positions you chose.
- Below, specify the marketing opportunities for your local community.

Then mark those that are appropriate for your volunteer positions (i.e., you wouldn't approach middle schools for drivers, but you...)

Position Descrip	tion 1:	
Position Descrip	otion 2:	
Position Descrip	otion 3:	
Position Descrip	otion 4:	

Elem./Middle Schools	
High School	
Local College/University	
Trade Union	
Social/Fraternal Orgs. (Lions)	
Other	

"Ways to get your message to these groups: flyers, posters, newsletters, speak at meetings, bulletin board notices, "tickets" on windshields, door hangers, email, postcards, newspaper ads, radio public service announcements, table/booth at event, free event tickets, banner over street."

Some studies show people must see or hear something seven times before acting upon it.



## Recruitment





# Engagement

The following chart is a list of volunteer engagement best practices:

Best Practice	Purpose
Committees should have a clear direction/charge	Ensures engaged volunteers as inactive committees or committees whose members do not see the larger purpose often result in disengaged volunteers
Engage new leaders through task forces	Allows organization to "test" volunteer and short-focused opportunities lead to highly engaged volunteers
Charg Saved to this PC s with assisting Board in carrying out strategic goals	Ensures Board work remains strategic and logistics of carrying out goals stay with committees. The result is volunteers at all levels feel their work is meaningful
Assign "buddies"	Provides a resource and instant connection for new volunteers
Hold annual volunteer orientations	Many organizations lose the opportunity to engage a new volunteer by not properly orienting them to their position. These orientations can be conducted both live and virtually
Short/focused volunteer opportunities	Long committee terms and vague assignments lead to disengaged volunteers. For example, one-year terms renewable up to three-years allows volunteers to gracefully step away from a position they can no longer fill
Address expectations/commitment with volunteers BEFORE volunteer assignment begins	Allows volunteers to understand expectations, roles and responsibilities and time commitments before accepting a position



### Retention

- Personalize recognition(handwritten thank you note or phone call from Board President, Committee Chair or Executive Director)
- > Thank them in person (e.g., identify committee/program volunteers at Events so Board members can thank them in person
- Identify opportunities to recognize volunteers throughout their service, not just at the end of their term or the event (e.g., volunteer spotlight in on social media, outreach from Staff or Board member, or birthday and holiday cards)
- Implement a formal recognition program
- Create Review and Feedback Forms acknowledge and act when needed
- Continued Development Board and Volunteer



#### https://ustageorgia.com/community/cta-resources/



https://ustageorgia.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Volunteer-Development-Toolkit-Final\_.pdf





