



55 Ways to Reward your Fire Corps Volunteers

Looking for new ways to say thank you to your Fire Corps volunteers and show them how much you and the department appreciate their efforts? Find ideas for acknowledging the hard work of your Fire Corps team with this list of ways to reward your volunteers.

1. Provide them with apparel, such as t-shirts, hats, etc.
2. Give them a desk or designated space to work at your department.
3. Nominate them for the President's Volunteer Service Award. Find out how to become a nominating agency at www.presidentialserviceawards.gov/index.cfm.
4. Host a special meal to say "thank you."
5. Designate a yearly day as "Fire Corps Day" at your department.
6. Give them a designated parking spot.
7. Prepare a short video montage that celebrates their accomplishments.
8. Arrange for a birthday cake to be delivered to them on their birthday.
9. Start a station "wall of fame" and add them to it.
10. Create and give them an award or certificate that they can keep and frame to recognize a job well done.
11. Host a volunteer appreciation day once a month.
12. Surprise them with a special breakfast.
13. Celebrate the anniversary of when your volunteers joined Fire Corps.
14. Host an annual award ceremony and give awards to volunteers for their contributions.
15. Write a handwritten note to volunteers deserving recognition.
16. If someone has done something really outstanding, recognize them for it at the next meeting with a standing ovation.
17. Create an annual scrapbook or yearbook honoring their service.
18. Give a handwritten note to your volunteers' spouses sharing how thankful you are for their significant other's time and efforts.
19. Prepare a short video montage comprised of people they have helped expressing their thanks, gratitude, and how they impacted their lives.
20. If your program works with local schools, ask teachers to have their students make posters thanking the volunteers by name.
21. Write a news article honoring volunteers that is published in the organization's newsletter or the town's newspaper.
22. Give tickets to a local event.
23. Send a note of congratulations for personal and professional achievements.
24. Encourage people who have been impacted by the volunteers to send them a thank you note.
25. Give gift certificates to local restaurants.

26. Ask a volunteer to co-present with your staff at a workshop, conference, or staff development event.
27. Promote effective volunteers to higher areas of volunteerism within your organization.
28. Plant a tree or flowerbed in their honor.
29. Contribute to a charity selected by the volunteers.
30. Host a holiday event to bring the volunteers' families together.
31. Stage a potluck dinner in a volunteer's honor.
32. Let them be recognized on a float in the community parade.
33. Contact the Governor in your state and ask for a State Fire Corps resolution to be made and honor volunteers on that day.
34. Design a vanity plate for the front of their car or visor.
35. Print and distribute bumper stickers with a group picture of the volunteers.
36. Send a thank you note to the volunteer's employer noting the impact and contribution that the volunteer has made.
37. Recognize volunteers' children's accomplishments.
38. Give out Fire Corps challenge coins for outstanding service.
39. Provide collar pins for levels of service hours.
40. Collect items (hats, mugs, etc.) from vendors and raffle those off each month during a meeting.
41. Host quarterly thank you events such as potluck luncheons and cookouts, play teambuilding games at these events, and recognize the efforts of the volunteers.
42. Have one birthday cake each month at your meeting to honor all volunteers with a birthday in that month.
43. Honor volunteers at the local level at township, village, or city meetings.
44. For the volunteer with the most hours for the quarter, give a gift card for dinner for them and their spouse.
45. Find a training or class the volunteer would like to attend and make it happen.
46. Send Christmas cards that express how grateful the department is for their service.
47. Assign special projects.
48. Have fun events to help volunteers connect, such as asking everyone to bring in a photo of themselves as a baby and then having everyone guess who's who.
49. Introduce and praise them to key leaders such as the mayor or state representatives.
50. Host showers for special events in their lives such as weddings or births.
51. Give an annual "Best New Idea that Didn't Work" award to encourage your volunteers to think outside the box with their activities, even if it does not pan out.
52. Ask them for a new idea on what they would like to do with Fire Corps - and, if possible, give them the tools they need to make it happen.
53. After a successful event, go out for ice cream to celebrate.
54. Reward dedication by giving out quality gifts for one-year, five-years and ten-year anniversaries.
55. When a volunteer experiences a personal loss or hardship, have members of the department take turns preparing and delivering meals to the volunteer and their family for several days.