

# LESSON 14

**Reasons Why People Volunteer** 

- To help their families
- To work with youth
- To learn new skills
- To help the community
- To meet and get to know people in the community

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**Reasons Why People Volunteer** 

- To develop leadership skills
- To use personal skills and knowledge
- To learn more about community efforts and activities
- To give back to an organization that has helped them

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**Club Leader Role** 

- Supports youth by providing encouragement, ideas and learning opportunities
- Recruits other volunteers and parents to assist with project and club activities

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### Club Leader Role



- Links the club to the county 4-H program by keeping communication open between the club and local 4-H Extension professional
- Makes sure that 4-H clubs contribute to and make use of community resources

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### Project Leader Role



- Creates positive learning environment where needs of all youth are met
- Provides experiences that teach the subject matter using experiential learning methods
- Provides opportunities to develop life skills
- Helps youth set realistic goals for projects and helps them reach those goals

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### Skills and Attitudes of Volunteers



- Understanding youth development principles
- Share age-appropriate responsibilities with youth
- Have high expectations and hold youth accountable
- Recognize the accomplishments of youth

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### Skills and Attitudes of Volunteers



- Fair, objective, honest and sincere
- Facilitate teamwork
- Develop leadership skills of youth

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### Supporting and Recognizing Volunteers



- Maintain contact with volunteers (internet, personal contact, phone)
- Develop clearly focused agendas for volunteer meetings
- Handle conflicts immediately
- Encouragement and recognition are essential

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### Volunteer Recognition Ideas



1. Publicly thank volunteers. Write a news release for local paper highlighting their contributions.
2. Ask for volunteers' input into programs, events, workshops.
3. Invite volunteers to participate in staff meetings and conferences.

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### Volunteer Recognition Ideas



4. Ask a volunteer to speak on behalf of the 4-H program to an outside agency or to a donor.
5. Promote a volunteer to a higher level of responsibilities.
6. Write a letter of reference.
7. Nominate volunteers for community, state or national awards.

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### Volunteer Recognition Ideas



8. Encourage youth to send thank-you notes.
9. Feature volunteers in print or media promotional publications.
10. Provide recognition tokens such as plaques, certificates, pins.

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### Volunteer Recognition Ideas



11. Offer perks such as free admission, parking, reserved seating, etc.
12. Have a Volunteer of the Month Award.
13. Host a banquet, luncheon, party or reception in the volunteers' honor.

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# LESSON 14

## 131 WAYS TO RECOGNIZE 4-H VOLUNTEERS HANDOUT

### 131 WAYS TO RECOGNIZE 4-H VOLUNTEERS

#### Ohio 4-H Volunteer Fact Sheet #40

Everyone likes to be appreciated for doing a good job. Recognition activities need not be formal, public, or expensive. Following is a list of informal recognition ideas, which are either inexpensive or no cost, which can be utilized to recognize 4-H volunteers.

- Send cards for achievements (birthday, new arrivals, anniversary, promotion, graduation, etc.)
- Write a news article for the local newspaper, highlighting a 4-H volunteer's contribution or impact.
- Write a news article for the 4-H newsletter.
- Send a thank-you note.
- Smile.
- Send a holiday greeting card.
- Say "thank-you" during a meeting or gathering.
- Ask a 4-H volunteer for their input about a program.
- Utilize a 4-H volunteer suggestion box.
- Ask a 4-H volunteer to serve in a leadership role.
- Present service stripes, or candy canes with the message—You've earned your stripes!
- Ask a 4-H volunteer to conduct a program.
- Have a soft drink party.
- Ask a 4-H volunteer to coordinate a program or event.
- Shake hands.
- Plan a theme party (toga, costume, western, etc.)
- Give a pat-on-the-back.
- Invite 4-H volunteers to staff meetings.
- Encourage them to contribute and participate.
- Ask a 4-H volunteer to develop a display.
- Send a 4-H volunteer to a conference.
- Ask the 4-H volunteer to present a report or workshop on some aspect of the conference.
- Cultivate special interests. Find ways for 4-H volunteers to utilize their special interests.
- Utilize 4-H volunteer's unique special talents.
- Be flexible.
- Share the success or impact of one 4-H volunteer with others at a meeting or gathering.
- Provide certificates, plaques, pins, etc.
- Provide "perks" (free admission, parking, etc.)
- Take an interest in their personal lives.
- Have a "4-H volunteer of the month" award.
- Host a banquet, luncheon, dessert, tea, or reception in the 4-H volunteers' honor.
- Invite a 4-H volunteer out to lunch.
- Reimburse gas money for club activities.
- Establish a 4-H Honor Roll.
- Provide educational resources for the 4-H volunteers to utilize (videos, pamphlets, books, and curriculum)
- Be motivational and challenging.
- Ask effective 4-H volunteers to each recruit another 4-H volunteer who is "just like them."
- Debrief with 4-H volunteers following a conference, program, or activity, which they participated in.
- Always use a person's first name.
- Nominate a 4-H volunteer to teach a workshop at a conference or symposium.
- Assist with workshop preparation.
- Label the coffeepot. ("Vicki pours herself out for us!" or "Joe keeps things perking!")
- Greet each 4-H volunteer with enthusiasm and appreciation.

- Ask an effective 4-H volunteer to mentor a new recruit.
- Send Hershey's Kisses.
- Provide useful and effective orientation for each 4-H volunteer position.
- Send peppermint candies with the message "You're worth a mint!"
- Develop leadership skills and self-confidence.
- Ask a 4-H volunteer for their input or opinion.
- Recognize and share innovative suggestions or programs.
- Be patient.
- Recognize community service activities.
- Take time to explain.
- Send get well cards.
- Recognize 4-H volunteers for financial and philanthropic contributions.
- Build consensus and support.
- Recognize tenure.
- Practice the "Platinum Rule." ("Do unto others as they prefer being done unto.")
- Recognize the impact of the number of hours contributed to the organization or program.
- Ask a 4-H volunteer to speak on behalf of the program to an outside agency.
- Ask a 4-H volunteer to speak to a donor.
- Hold a rap session.
- Ask a 4-H volunteer to speak at a 4-H volunteer meeting.
- Run a photograph and story in the local paper.
- Ask a 4-H volunteer to write a news article or news release.
- Foster personal growth.
- Ask a 4-H volunteer to make a television appearance or radio announcement.
- Provide scholarships to conferences.
- Promote a 4-H volunteer to expanded or higher level responsibilities.
- Recognize the achievements or accomplishments of those with whom the 4-H volunteer works.
- Ask the 4-H volunteer to direct a volunteer recruitment campaign.
- Share the 4-H volunteer's personal success story.
- Provide 4-H volunteers their own work area.
- Be respectful.
- Schedule monthly birthday bashes.
- Have a program participant share a success story about the 4-H volunteer.
- Provide transportation.
- Write letters of reference.
- Surprise a 4-H volunteer with a birthday cake.
- Utilize a 4-H volunteer as a consultant.
- Send flowers.
- Nominate 4-H volunteers for awards.
- Attend personal celebrations (birthdays, anniversaries, etc.)
- Take note of 4-H volunteers' children's accomplishments. Recognize them.
- Make home visits.
- Make sure that each 4-H volunteer is a "good fit" with their leadership role.
- Let each 4-H volunteer know they were missed.
- Make telephone calls.
- Encourage clientele to send thank-you notes.
- Plan an organizational outing (picnic, theater, ball game, family day, pool party, etc.)
- Praise in public—especially in front of family and friends.
- Encourage program participants to send birthday and anniversary cards.
- Have a birthday column in your 4-H newsletter.
- Send a note of congratulations for personal and professional achievements.
- Send a thank-you note to the 4-H volunteer's parent.
- Recognize an employer with a 4-H volunteer.
- Send a thank-you note to the 4-H volunteer's employer acknowledging the employee's contribution.

- Encourage others to express appreciation.
- Send 4-H volunteers an “Encouragemint.”
- Ask 4-H volunteers to chaperone trips.
- Ask 4-H volunteers to judge competitions.
- Provide childcare.
- Send hand-written notes.
- Give complimentary gift certificates.
- Print business cards for 4-H volunteers.
- Ask a 4-H volunteer to co-present a workshop.
- Stage a potluck dinner in a 4-H volunteer’s honor.
- Attend 4-H volunteers’ activities and sporting events.
- Bounce new ideas off of a 4-H volunteer.
- Involve 4-H volunteers in problem solving efforts.
- Organize a card shower for a 4-H volunteer.
- Plant a tree or flowerbed in a 4-H volunteer’s name.
- Contribute to a charity in a 4-H volunteer’s name.
- Send spices with a note: “You’re the spice of life!”
- Print and distribute bumper stickers.
- Provide caps or shirts to promote unity.
- Provide a golf cart for a 4-H volunteer to utilize during a fair, festival, golf outing, etc.
- Organize a holiday open house.
- Feature a 4-H volunteer in a slide show.
- Provide reserved seating at any event.
- Provide favors at meetings or events.
- Direct newspaper reporters to worthy 4-H volunteers when writing a news story.
- Send balloons.
- Send candy.
- Surprise everyone by bringing donuts.
- Send cookies.
- Encourage 4-H volunteers to provide leadership in their community.
- Give a 4-H volunteer a light bulb or candle with the message “You light up my life.”
- Send valentines.
- Give calendars, notepads, pens, or pencils.
- Be pleasant and appreciative.

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