Ten Tips for Engaging Volunteers

Presenter
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Vibrant Faith Ministries
Share

I’m more likely to volunteer when . . .

I’m less likely to volunteer when . . .
1: Create master list of ministry opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ongoing Assistance Needed</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Family Interview scheduler</td>
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<td>• Acolyte/Worship leader scheduler</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Event photographers</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Registration/Database Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Time &amp; Talent Coordinator (review sheets weekly)</td>
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<td>• Confirmation Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Assistance Needed By the Month</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>• JAN: Compile Annual Report</td>
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<td>• FEB: Helpers for Annual Audit</td>
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<td>• MAY: Complete 2010-2011 Yearbook DVD</td>
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<td>• AUG: Hosts for “Tables of Eight” project</td>
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<th><strong>One Time Project Coordinators</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>• Mission Trip Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Habitat Building Blitz Coordinator</td>
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<td>• Vacation Bible School Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Opportunities that can be done from home</strong></th>
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<td>• Send birthday cards to youth</td>
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<td>• Send 10 affirmation cards a week</td>
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<td>• Make 8 “check-in” calls to families each month</td>
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<td>• Review website (make list of updates/suggestions)</td>
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- Ongoing
- Once or twice a month
- Once a year or special project
- Can be done at home or online
Sample Ministry Description
CONFIRMATION MENTOR

Purpose
To help surround each young person in this congregation with caring adults to model a vibrant faith. To encourage young people in their faith journey by sharing my own life and faith journey.

Gifts & passions needed for this position
• A passion for young people
• Ability to connect with youth people
• An authentic faith

Primary Responsibilities
• Attend monthly confirmation gatherings
• Befriend and walk alongside a designated youth
• Pray for student on a regular basis
• Share your life and faith story with student

Term of Service/Time Commitment
• October 1, 2010 - October 10, 2012
• Be available 2nd Wednesday of month (6:30-8)
• Total time commitment (42 hours over 2 years)

Support/Training
• Orientation held October 3, 2010 (6:30-9pm)
• Contact Person: Lil Grothe (612.854.9036)
• Receive monthly “Leadership Link”
• Two phone check-ins every year

- Why is this important?
- Why did you ask me?
- What would I need to do?
- When would you need me?
- How will you support me?
3: Maintain a prospect list

- Have a list of 25 or more names
- Regularly review membership list
- Get input from staff & other leaders
- List should include email/phone #s
- List each person’s gifts & passions
- Know the answer to “Why me?”
4: Sow seeds weekly

- Phone calls or texting (5 a week)
- Emails (10 a week)
- Face to face (3 a week)
- Capture a story/video of a volunteer
- Explore “next steps” with volunteers
- Check-in with new members

Inviting members into ministry must be done on a regular basis
5: Enlist others to sow seeds weekly

- Provide a script (include philosophy)
- Assign staff to make contact
- Make assignments at meetings
- Review assignments at meetings
- Express appreciation
- Pray for individuals being contacted
Dear John,
I’d like you to consider being one of our 30 confirmation mentors this year. I’ve been impressed with how easily you engage with young people. You have a way of bringing out the best in them.

Serving in this capacity would involve . . . .

Take some time to think about it. I’ll call you in a few weeks to see if this is something you’d be interested and would be a good use of your gifts.

Jim
P.S. How are your picks doing for the NCAA basketball tournament?
7: Give people plenty of time to ponder opportunity

Start lining up teachers 6 months before opportunity

Teachers Needed
8: Follow up a “no” response with another question

“Would you consider being a substitute teacher?”
9: Have current volunteers invite their friends to serve

- Fishing tournament
- Camping retreat
- Habitat For Humanity
- Feed My Starving Children
- Paint-a-thon
- Adopt a neighbor

Ask, “Would any of your friends be interested in serving with you?”
10: Have young volunteers invite their grand parents
Closing Thoughts

Have volunteers and recipients share their stories
Closing Thoughts

Care for the volunteers you already have!

Job description
Orientation
Frequent check-ins
Discuss learnings
Affirm contributions
Provide helpful feedback
Discern next steps
Provide closure
The most helpful thought/idea for me today was . . .
A question or challenge I have right now is . . .
Thanks for joining us today!

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