

Time to say thank you

1-7
JUNE

VOLUNTEERS' WEEK
time to say thank you

YOU MAKE THE DIFFERENCE



Northern Ireland
Executive

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Ideas for Celebrating and Recognising your Volunteers

Volunteers' Week is all about celebrating and recognising your volunteers. This year in Northern Ireland, we celebrate the 33rd Anniversary of Volunteers Week! This is a great time to stop, take stock and publicly thank your volunteers for their time and commitment. Below are some ways you could recognise and thank your volunteers during the Week.

- Present your volunteers with a 'Time to Say Thank You' volunteer certificate. Ask your local council or personality to make the presentation, make the guest speaker appropriate to your volunteers.
- Organise an event to thank your volunteers – coffee morning, afternoon tea, movie night, picnic or BBQ, etc – everyone brings something to the occasion! This event could even be a mobile volunteering session of which could follow into a recognition ceremony at the end. The event doesn't have to take place on volunteers' week, it could be at any time of the year.
- Create a 'thank you volunteers' display board or window in your organisation – include pictures of your volunteers with a line about what they do.
- Create a volunteer photo book for your group. Keep it in your reception area so visitors can see the difference your volunteers make. Create a slideshow presentation featuring volunteer contributions. Perhaps you have an old digital photo frame at home which you could use to display photos of your volunteers.
- Post a thank you message on your website and social media sites – tweet a thank you message to all your contacts about your volunteers.
- Send a press release to your local paper/radio station highlighting the great work your volunteers do. You could include a total of the hours they donate and calculate the economic value of their time, using the VIVA tool at <http://bit.ly/1OMt5dm> – see our Template Press Release to get you started – <http://bit.ly/2oCkcMi>
- Have a 'bring a friend' event where your current volunteers bring someone along to find out about volunteering with your organisation
- Register your volunteer opportunities on www.volunteernow.co.uk or if you have some displayed, ensure they are all up to date.

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Get Involved

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