

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

BOOTH

TEACHER AND VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION IDEAS

BACK-TO-SCHOOL AND VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT IDEAS

Weekly or Monthly Teacher Appreciation Ideas:

Giving a small weekly or monthly treat to teachers and staff shows your teachers and staff that you care for, support and remember them. It can build morale, unity and commonality. Personal Experience: My Middle School does monthly treats in the staff mailboxes and I happened to be in the office the day the treats had been placed in the mailboxes and there at lunch time... A teacher checked her box and looked at the treat and started crying. I asked her if she was ok and her response was: "How did you know I needed this today? Thank you so much! We (the teachers) loves these treats. They make us feel loved. They always seem to appear when it's been a rough week. Thank you!" This particular treat was a poem with a single lifesaver on it. Cost: \$3 in lifesavers and a few pennies in ink and paper. Impact: priceless.

Teacher Appreciation Week Themes

First: Make sure you include the staff and make it Staff Appreciation Week (SAW). Pick a Theme and most importantly, get the families and students involved. Of course, the PTA/PTSA should do something each day of the week, but also allow students and families get involved to make it more personal and meaningful for the teachers and Staff. I love to do meals during SAW. Use an online volunteer program to get volunteers to help with themed meals. That cuts what you use your budget on and allows families to participate. FACT: some parents will never volunteer, but they will bring a crockpot full of food or fruit or a salad. Idea: poll teachers about the 3 top supplies they need in their classrooms and then the PTA/PTSA gives the top pick as a gift one day and then let parents donate the other items that made the list. Personal Experience: My Elementary school did this a few years ago and it was a huge hit. The #1 item was dry erase markers so we were able to purchase each teacher a 12 pack of dry erase markers through our district for a great price and attach a cute note and deliver to each teacher. It was a needed and used gift. Then the families donated on one of the days of the themed week tissue, snacks and pencils. Another favorite idea was the way a school included support staff. One day they took sack breakfasts out to the bus drivers. One school always decorates the office when the teacher doors are decorated. Another school has a special lunch for all support staff.

Teacher Appreciation can be Adapted

Teacher Appreciation is a great time to let teachers thank the volunteers too. One school provides a soda fountain the week of teacher appreciation for staff to enjoy. On Friday, they send out cute coupons to all of their volunteers for the year and have a drive-thru dirty soda or soda float bar. So the volunteers drive thru the line, pick their drink, pay with their coupon and get their drink made to order along with a lot of praise and thank yous. I loved it (nothing is better on a hot day than a coke float). Another school has a staff and volunteer luncheon where teachers and volunteers sit down together

and enjoy a meal and conversation and can thank each other for the hard work they have done this year. Most of the ideas shared can be adapted to work for teacher or volunteer appreciation.

Volunteers Need Love Too

Don't forget to thank your volunteers all year long. Whether it is a Christmas Card signed by the board or a thank you note the week after red ribbon week to the red ribbon committee, be sure to thank your volunteers. A year end gift or luncheon or both are an absolute must, but showing little gifts of thanks throughout the year will keep morale going. Personal Moment: When I was a president, I always brought chocolate to meetings. I always tried to label the container with a cute saying to thank them for taking the time to come to meetings. I also always made it a point to thank committees in meetings when we reviewed whatever event had just passed. Most volunteers will say they don't need recognition, but they do appreciate being appreciated and feeling wanted. You can lose volunteers if they don't feel valued. Part of appreciating volunteers is valuing their time, contributions and ideas. If you say a meeting is going to last an hour, don't go 2 hours. If someone has volunteered, make sure you utilize them and their talents.

Back to School – A Missed Opportunity

Back to School time is soooo busy, but it is often a missed opportunity for PTAs/PTSAs. Starting the school year off on the right foot can make or break the school year for your PTA/PTSA. Back to School Time is a great time to bring PTA/PTSA in front of the families and show them what your PTA/PTSA does to support your school community. If your school has a back to school event, your PTA should be involved and actively participate. If your school does not have a back to school event, offer to host one. Have a BBQ, carnival, outdoor movie night or a quick walk thought event like PTA and Popsicles. No matter the event, here are a few must haves: 1. Brag board – show families the events you support and how your money benefits the school. 2. Get your Volunteers – have sign up sheets or a sign up poster or have computers available and use an online program. If your district requires a background check, have computers available to fill in the mandatory online application. 3. Have a membership table – most of your members sign up during registration time. 4. Always have a sign that says the event is sponsored by PTA/PTSA. Many times parents and staff don't realize what the PTA/PTSA really does.

All ideas shared at the CommYOUity Involvement Table are available on our Pinterst pages or will be uploaded in the Teacher Appreciation and Volunteers sections on the Community Involvement Page on Utah PTA. Here is the link: <http://www.utahpta.org/community-involvement-commissioner>

Most of the tags were created and are available for your use. Most were created in Microsoft Publisher and are shareable by emailing juliec@utahpta.org

Find more ideas on our Pintrest pages (click for link):

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[Back to School](#)

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