



Recognizing Members

As a leader, your job is only half over once you recruit new members to your organization. The next and often more important task is to keep them involved. Recognizing your volunteers will let them know they are an important, vital part of your organization. It will keep them involved, committed and active at the highest energy level. Recognition lets people know they are doing a good job. The president should be involved in recognition, along with the committee chairperson. Individual members can also give a pat on the back to the organization president, other officers or members. Recognition is for everyone! If the award excited them, it will most likely motivate them.

THERE ARE MANY THINGS THAT MEMBERS CAN BE RECOGNIZED FOR, INCLUDING:

- working on a successful program
- demonstrating a positive, supportive attitude during a heated discussion
- being open to a new ideas
- volunteering for the jobs that no one else wants to do
- suggesting ideas for improvement in the organization
- taking on a tough challenge
- attending every meeting
- arriving on time to all meetings and events
- being a positive, enthusiastic member

TIPS FOR GETTING YOUR RECOGNITION STARTED:

- do not overdo your recognition or praise
- make recognition moments fun and memorable
- accentuate the positive
- build individual attitude and you will boost group morale
- show praise immediately after the act
- listen to people
- ask for input from other members
- look for opportunities
- praise them for their work

HERE ARE SOME IDEAS FOR RECOGNIZING YOUR VOLUNTEERS:

- explicitly say you appreciate them
- be specific about what they have done that you appreciate
- write a handwritten thank-you note
- do recognition at a board or committee meeting
- create a committee member of the month award
- have an end of the year reception or banquet for all members
- nominate members for University leadership awards
- give a certificate of appreciation
- distribute incentives such as free passes, T-shirts, or gift certificates
- email appreciation or recognition to all members
- have a traveling award that is passed around the group to members
- place recognition plaques in public areas
- plan a social gathering

RECOGNITION OPPORTUNITIES:

Every year in the Spring semester, Student Involvement holds the Student Impact Awards; a ceremony recognizing students, advisors, and organizations with outstanding involvement at UNL. These awards are a good way to acknowledge all of the people who greatly contribute to your organization. Some of the awards include:

- President of the Year
- Treasurer of the Year
- Advisor of the Year
- New Advisor of the Year
- Education/Entertainment Program of the Year

For more information on organization and personal development skills in the SOAR series, stop by or call UNL Student Involvement, 200 Nebraska Union, 472-2454; or 300 Nebraska East Union, 472-1780. Staff members will be happy to assist you and answer your questions.

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