

Examples of Recognitions

There are many ways to say thank you:

- Provide refreshments for people who show up on work trips. Unfortunately homemade brownies trump any healthy snack!
- Give trail maintainers and trail workers t-shirts and hats, which also serve to market their organization
- Ask, at a trail opening, all those folks who made the trail possible to stand up so you can thank them.
- Place signs at a trail head, if permitted, acknowledging groups that maintain trails
- List names of volunteers in newsletters, books, and maps
- Acknowledge donors and supporters in newsletters, on the backs of t-shirts, and in program books
- Host a potluck picnic for volunteers at a place not normally open to the public
- Obtain donations of tools which can be distributed to members of work crews
- Have patches or pins which indicate the number of years of service
- Hold an annual lunch or dinner to present major awards to outstanding volunteers
- Send certificates and letters to private landowners for allowing use of their land for hiking.
- Give jackets or vests to long term volunteers
- Give a framed photograph or poster of a map to your key supporters
- Have a plaque in your agency and add names over time.
- Ask your agency partners to write an acknowledgement letter
- Write a letter to your agency partner's supervisor letting him/her know how valuable your partner is.

Representative List of Recognitions

The following list is not comprehensive and when a specific group is mentioned, they are not necessarily the only group that thanks people that way.

- CLIMB awards trail builders with a new shovel painted gold
- Westchester Mountain Biking Association has donated gear to give away at major work trips
- Girl Scout leaders thanked an organizer of an overnight canoe trip with a good can opener to replace the woefully inadequate one she had on the trip
- The entire Yorktown mailing list receives updates on a project and which includes a list of names thanking the participants
- A crew leader had a photographer take pictures which he then sends to crew members
- The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference sends a picture postcard to volunteers during National Volunteer Week in April
- National Park Service presents a plaque for their Silver and Golden awards to volunteers giving 25 and 50 years of service
- Parks and Trails New York asks for nominees for their annual awards for volunteers and public service employees
- A volunteer leader thanked all participants in an extensive trail building project with hats that she had knit

A personal letter of thanks is always good..... Write them often!