

RECRUITING, RETAINING AND REWARDING YOUR VOLUNTEERS

By David Brown

Ontario Association of
Agricultural Societies

February 14th, 2020



Hi, I'm David, and I
am a volunteer!

**“The Backbone of our Societies are
volunteers, without them, we wouldn’t
have a Fair.”**

How Do You Recruit Your Volunteers?



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You Need to Advertise your society!

Other
Service
Clubs

Newspaper

Open House/BBQ

Joint Fundraisers and Events

Website-
Social Media

Volunteer section or page

TV or radio

Local Schools

Don't forget, your volunteers probably volunteer for other organizations.

Using their contacts to network is a great way to attract others to come and help your Fair!



September 17-20, 2020

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All that's missing is !

Get Involved. Gain Experience. Give Back.

RICHMOND FAIR COUNTDOWN

216:18:05:19



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What Engagement Strategies Does
Your Society Use to Retain Your
Volunteers?

Multiple Interactions Will Keep Your People Engaged!

- ❖ **Do you follow-up with them after each event?**
- ❖ **Do you host an orientation before your Fair or event?**
- ❖ **Do you have a FAQ's page for new and returning volunteers?**
- ❖ **Do you have a sign-in area or desk for your volunteers?**
- ❖ **Do you have one designated Volunteer Coordinator, or does each committee find their own volunteers?**

How Does Your Society Promote Personal Growth For Your Volunteers?

Executive Committee

Board of Directors

Committee Chairs

Junior Directors or Youth Program

Fair Volunteers

Event Specific or One-off opportunities

Student Volunteers

**“Ask not what volunteers can do for
your Fair-ask what your Fair can do for
your volunteers.”**

Can your Volunteers Network with others to help them grow personally or professionally?

One-Sided Relationships Don't Last- Gaining Valuable Life Skills is a benefit for volunteers and your Fair.

Working as a team

Completing Tasks

Learning how to speak in public

Writing & Delivering

Reports

Making Connections

Volunteer  **Local Business Owner who is hiring**

Junior Directors or Youth Directors

The Next Generation of Volunteers

“We need more young people to volunteer and provide their ideas.”

“Oh, but we’ve always done it this way.”

“Young volunteers can do more than paint fences and muck out stalls”

Junior Directors or Youth Directors

The Next Generation of Volunteers

- ❖ Participate at Board & Committee Meetings
- ❖ Allow your young people to organize and run an event with support from the Board
- ❖ Offer them opportunities to attend events, conventions & seminars
- ❖ Allow them to represent your Society at another Fair's Opening or local community function

**Providing young volunteers an opportunity to make a tangible impact
will keep them coming back**

Rewarding Your Volunteers

THANK YOU

A photograph of colorful plastic letters spelling 'THANK YOU' on a wooden surface. The letters are arranged in two rows. The top row contains 'T' (orange), 'H' (blue), 'A' (black), 'N' (red), and 'K' (green). The bottom row contains 'Y' (green), 'O' (orange), and 'U' (yellow).

Different Kinds of Thank You's

- ❖ A personal “Thank-You” & a handshake
- ❖ Thank you Letter
- ❖ Breakfast, Dinner or an Appreciation Party to thank your volunteers
- ❖ Awards and Recognitions, Local, Provincial or National, or create your own Award!
- ❖ Meal Tickets, Parking Passes, Dance or Entertainment tickets
- ❖ Swag- T-Shirts, Hoodies, Pens, Pins, Water Bottles



February 13, 2020

[Name]

On behalf of the Richmond Agricultural Society I would like to thank you for volunteering in [area/committee]. The Fair's success is a direct result of hundreds of volunteers just like you. All of the hard work and dedication from each of our volunteers ensures that we continue to offer a family friendly atmosphere which brings our community together year after year. I hope you will be able to take some time and explore the different sights and attractions that the Fair has to offer.

I would also like to take this opportunity to invite you to the Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast on **Saturday, October 21st, 2017 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** The Appreciation Breakfast is hosted to thank our Fair team and to invite you to be our guest. I hope I'll see you there.

Again, thank you, [name] for all of your time and effort. It is very much appreciated.

Name ~~Name~~
Chair of Committee
Richmond Agricultural Society

David Brown
President
Richmond Agricultural Society

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." —
Winston Churchill

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Honours and awards: volunteering

Learn how to nominate someone for honours and awards for achievements in volunteering.

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Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers

This medal recognizes the outstanding contributions of young volunteers in Ontario.

Related

[Other honours and awards](#)

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Thank you for being a volunteer!

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