



Recognising and Thanking Volunteers

Taking the time to recognise and celebrate the contribution volunteers make to your Homework Club is fundamental. You don't need to spend money to show your appreciation. Even simple acts to show volunteers that you value their contribution can go a long way in making them feel appreciated, thus ensuring their motivation and commitment to the program...Remember, it's the thought that counts!

Everyday ideas

- Display photos of volunteers around the centre or classroom; email photos to volunteers
- Include articles and stories about volunteers in your newsletter and/or on your website
- Always make volunteers feel like part of the team – seek their feedback, invite them to meetings, keep them updated about what's happening in the program, involve them in planning, etc.

Special events and activities

- You may like to try one of the following ideas to celebrate special days – such as International Volunteer Day (December), or National Volunteer Week (May).
- Hold an event for volunteers – perhaps an afternoon tea or picnic. This doesn't have to be something funded by your organisation – catching up socially is important for volunteers and helps emphasise their value in the team.
- Give volunteer recognition certificates (see attached template from Volunteering Australia) and/or write personalised thank you cards to each volunteer

The Centre for Multicultural Youth is a Victorian not-for-profit organisation supporting young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds to build better lives in Australia.

Centre for Multicultural Youth
304 Drummond St, Carlton VIC 3054

T (03) 9340 3700 • **F** (03) 9349 3766
info@cmy.net.au • cmy.net.au



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- Contact your local newspaper and ask them to write an article about the contribution volunteers make to your program (this may also be a great opportunity to recruit new volunteers!)

Involving students in recognising volunteers

- Involve your students in making or presenting Volunteer Recognition Certificates, personalised Thank You Cards, or photo montages for volunteers
- Have students write stories or draw pictures to be made into a booklet to give to volunteers
- Organise for students to prepare and present a speech or dramatic performance about what volunteers and the homework club mean to them
- Ask students to complete volunteer-related activities with tutors at the homework club (for example, the attached word search)

For more student activity ideas about volunteering, see the following:

- <https://www.learningtogive.org/>