



# Recruiting Volunteers

## The Basics

### Why Should I Recruit Volunteers?

Sometimes it seems easier to do the work yourself, but delegating tasks makes the work flow easier and keeps you sane. Volunteers:

- Spread the workload
- Revitalize and strengthen your organization
- Provide new ideas
- Get the job done
- Recruit future leaders

### What do you need to do?

- Visualize your event and figure out how many volunteers your event requires based on how many tasks need to be done
- Advertise specific volunteer roles (resources on reverse)
- Utilize your existing networks
- Ask the people you know who have skills that fit your needs.

### Flyers and Advertisements:

- Focus on the positive event outcomes
- Advertise a specific time frame for activities
- Encourage volunteers to ask their friends if they would be willing to help
- Be specific when defining roles so volunteers are clear about their responsibilities

### At the Event:

- Have contingency plans if too few or too many volunteers show up
- Thank volunteers both verbally and with small tokens or a recognition meal or raffle
- Collect contact information and ask people if they would be willing to help at future events

## Spotlight: Polish the Pearl

After a year with exceptionally low volunteer turnout to the annual Polish the Pearl, event planners Lynnette Fusilier and Scott Omlid knew they needed to bring the spirit of volunteerism back to the Pearl. To inspire volunteers to get involved contests were initiated between buildings to see which complex could produce the most neighborhood volunteers. Trophies were made and given to the winning building and to the most altruistic management company. In addition to building community through recognition of buildings, the Polish the Pearl planning committee did a great job



of recognizing everyone who showed up. Recognition included free meals for volunteers before and after the event, a prize for most interesting find, and a general raffle with items donated by local businesses. The hard work of the team paid off with twice as many volunteers showing up to clean the neighborhood, compared to the last event. While the contests change with each of the twice yearly events, the volunteers have continued to show up because they never know what kind of reward they'll receive next time. Cheers to the Pearl District for achieving success in volunteerism!

