

Volunteer Recruitment



Recruiting quality volunteers will make your job as a Clean-Up Coordinator exponentially easier. It can often be difficult to find people willing to step up and help out; this section will help you deal with some of the challenges related to volunteer recruitment.

Every event needs volunteers, but it sometimes feels easier to do the work yourself.

Reasons to recruit volunteers:

- To spread the work
- To keep the organization alive
- For new ideas
- To get the job done
- To look for people who might lead in the future

“It is one of the beautiful compensations of this life that no one can sincerely try to help another without helping himself.”

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Volunteer Recruitment Tips:

- On fliers ask for volunteers, but don't assume that just because you put a note on your advertisement that you need volunteers your job is done.
- Be clear about the activities you would like volunteers to perform.
- Tell volunteers the exact amount of time you think they would need to commit to the event.
- Talk about the positives of your event and who the volunteers will be helping.
- Ask people you think would be good for the job, when talking to them point out their particular skills that will help them in this task.
- Make a list of the amount of volunteers you could see using at the event if you recruited an optimal number. Make sure you have specific tasks in mind when you are approaching potential recruits.
- People may have negative connotations with the word volunteer but at the same time would be willing to help out
- Encourage volunteers to ask their friends if they would be willing to help
- Don't recruit so many volunteers that they have nothing to do.

How Do I Find Volunteers?

- Neighborhood Association Membership Lists
- Make phone calls to people you know
- Advertise with service groups (Scouts, schools, churches, civic organizations)
- Post Flyers with Volunteer Information
- Email List-Servs

Online Resources to Find Volunteers:

- www.idealists.org (NWNW has an account that allows event posting)
- www.craigslist.org
- www.cnrg.org
- www.handsonportland.org
- www.portlandonline.com/oni/
- www.meetinportland.org
- www.volunteermatch.org
- www.cascadelink.org