



# VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION IDEAS

**Use our fun checklist for ways to thank leaders & volunteers in your service unit!**

- **Show leaders some love at SU Meetings**
  - ⇒ Share a poem that shows volunteers their impact
  - ⇒ Bring treats like coffee (“thanks a latte”), snacks, or something sweet
  - ⇒ Ask Icebreaker questions that focus on leader appreciation and fun activities
  - ⇒ Break out by levels and get leaders talking about what they love about being a leader, fun troop activities, or something about their troop that makes them proud
  - ⇒ Have leaders divide into pairs and talk about exciting things they’ve done and accomplished this year, and then each person should come up with a creative award name for their partner and share out with the group
  - ⇒ *Helpful Resources:* Appreciation Poems for SU Meetings, Appreciation Icebreaker Cards
- **Get girls involved in leader appreciation**
  - ⇒ Have cards out at a SU event that girls can create or personalize for their leaders. Have girls hand them out at the end of the event, or collect them to present to leaders at a SU meeting or celebration.
  - ⇒ Invite girls to your awards celebration or SU meeting and have them hand out awards
  - ⇒ *Helpful Resources:* Girl Card Template ([gsnorcal.org/recognition](https://gsnorcal.org/recognition))
- **Recognize a special leader(s) each month**
  - ⇒ Use our informal and customizable award certificates to recognize volunteers throughout the year
  - ⇒ Thank a volunteer with a council fun patch at your leader meetings for something great she did that month (could include running a successful SU event, taking on a new role within the SU, leading a fun or creative troop activity that all her girls loved, etc.). Visit [www.girlscoutshop.com](https://www.girlscoutshop.com) or your local council shop to view available fun patches.
  - ⇒ *Helpful Resources:* SU Volunteer of the Month Certificate, SU Leader Appreciation Certificate, SU Outdoor Enthusiast Certificate, SU Customizable Certificate
- **Give them an award**
  - ⇒ Service Unit Awards can be given out any time of year - choose from our list of awards or create your own unique awards
  - ⇒ Nominate them for a National/Council Award any time before June 30th
  - ⇒ *Helpful Resources:* SU Awards Packet, National/Council Awards Packet

# VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION IDEAS cont.

- Plan a celebration
  - ⇒ Celebrate a special holiday (Valentine's Day, Leader's Day, etc.)
  - ⇒ Host an awards ceremony (plan a luncheon, dinner, or dessert event or invite girls/troops to a SU meeting to help present awards)
  - ⇒ Or celebrate just because!
  - ⇒ *Helpful Resources:* Service Unit Celebration and Award Ideas
- Send a fun e-card
  - ⇒ Send thank-you, holiday, and customizable e-cards using free websites like Punchbowl, Blue Mountain, Someecards, 123 Greetings, JibJab, or Open Me
- Give volunteers something special
  - ⇒ Visit our GSNorCal Appreciation Ideas Pinterest board for lots of cute and easy thank you ideas including candy grams, printable gift tags and templates, sweet treats, and more
  - ⇒ *Helpful Resources:* <https://www.pinterest.com/gsnorcal/appreciation-ideas/>
  - ⇒ See Sample Ideas below...



All *Helpful Resources* can be found at [gsnorcal.org/recognition](https://gsnorcal.org/recognition) and at [gsnorcal.org/training](https://gsnorcal.org/training) (Recognition Coordinator page)