

# *Ten Tips for Engaging Volunteers*



**Presenter**

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Share

I'm **more** likely to volunteer  
when ...

I'm **less** likely to volunteer  
when ...



# 1: Create master list of ministry opportunities



## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Ongoing Assistance Needed**

- Family Interview scheduler
- Acolyte/Worship leader scheduler
- Event photographers
- Registration/Database Coordinator
- Time & Talent Coordinator (review sheets weekly)
- Confirmation Coordinator

### **Assistance Needed By the Month**

- JAN: Compile Annual Report
- FEB: Helpers for Annual Audit
- MAY: Complete 2010-2011 Yearbook DVD
- AUG: Hosts for "Tables of Eight" project

### **One Time Project Coordinators**

- Mission Trip Coordinator
- Habitat Building Blitz Coordinator
- Vacation Bible School Coordinator

### **Opportunities that can be done from home**

- Send birthday cards to youth
- Send 10 affirmation cards a week
- Make 8 "check-in" calls to families each month
- Review website (make list of updates/suggestions)



- Ongoing
- Once or twice a month
- Once a year or special project
- Can be done at home or online

# 2: Create job descriptions



## **Sample Ministry Description CONFIRMATION MENTOR**

### **Purpose**

To help surround each young person in this congregation with caring adults to model a vibrant faith. To encourage young people in their faith journey by sharing my own life and faith journey.

### **Gifts & passions needed for this position**

- A passion for young people
- Ability to connect with youth people
- An authentic faith

### **Primary Responsibilities**

- Attend monthly confirmation gatherings
- Befriend and walk alongside a designated youth
- Pray for student on a regular basis
- Share your life and faith story with student

### **Term of Service/Time Commitment**

- October 1, 2010 - October 10, 2012
- Be available 2nd Wednesday of month (6:30-8)
- Total time commitment (42 hours over 2 years)

### **Support/Training**

- Orientation held October 3, 2010 (6:30-9pm)
- Contact Person: Lil Grothe (612.854.9036)
- Receive monthly "Leadership Link"
- Two phone check-ins every year



- Why is this important?
- Why did you ask me?
- What would I need to do?
- When would you need me?
- How will you support me?



# 3: Maintain a prospect list



- Have a list of 25 or more names
- Regularly review membership list
- Get input from staff & other leaders
- List should include email/phone #s
- List each person's gifts & passions
- Know the answer to "Why me?"

# 4: Sow seeds weekly



- Phone calls or texting (5 a week)
- Emails (10 a week)
- Face to face (3 a week)
- Capture a story/video of a volunteer
- Explore “next steps” with volunteers
- Check-in with new members



Inviting members into ministry must be done on a regular basis

# 5: Enlist others to sow seeds weekly



- Provide a script (include philosophy)
- Assign staff to make contact
- Make assignments at meetings
- Review assignments at meetings
- Express appreciation
- Pray for individuals being contacted



# 6: Personalize every email for a mass audience



Dear **John**,  
I'd like you to consider being one of our 30 confirmation mentors this year. **I've been impressed with how easily you engage with young people. You have a way of bringing out the best in them.**

Serving in this capacity would involve . . . .

Take some time to think about it. I'll call you in a few weeks to see if this is something you'd be interested and would be a good use of your gifts.

Jim

**P.S. How are your picks doing for the NCAA basketball tournament?**



Using texting and Facebook in the same manner



# 7: Give people plenty of time to ponder opportunity



Teachers  
Needed

Start lining up teachers 6 months before opportunity

## 8: Follow up a “no” response with another question



Teachers  
Needed

“Would you consider being a substitute teacher?”



# 9: Have current volunteers invite their friends to serve



- Fishing tournament
- Camping retreat
- Habitat For Humanity
- Feed My Starving Children
- Paint-a-thon
- Adopt a neighbor

Ask, “Would any of your friends be interested in serving with you?”



# 10: Have young volunteers invite their grand parents





# Closing Thoughts



**Worship**  
**Newsletter**  
**Website**  
**Posters**  
**Video Clips**  
**Letters**  
**Facebook**  
**Events**

Have volunteers and recipients share their stories



# Closing Thoughts



**Job description**  
**Orientation**  
**Frequent check-ins**  
**Discuss learnings**  
**Affirm contributions**  
**Provide helpful feedback**  
**Discern next steps**  
**Provide closure**

**Care for the volunteers you already have!**





Share

The most helpful  
thought/idea for me  
today was ...



A man with a questioning expression, wearing a brown herringbone suit jacket, a white shirt, and a blue tie. His right hand is raised with fingers spread, palm facing forward, in a questioning gesture. The background is plain white.

Share

A question or challenge  
I have right now is ...



# VIBRANT FAITH MINISTRIES

**Thanks for  
joining us today!**



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