



LOW HANGING FRUIT



April 2024

LINKS TO MORE
LEARNING



Managing Classroom Volunteers in Your Elementary Classroom

Tips and tricks from Edutopia.

[projecthttps://www.edutopia.org/article/managing-classroom-volunteers-elementary-school/](https://www.edutopia.org/article/managing-classroom-volunteers-elementary-school/)

National Volunteer Week

Learn more about the benefits of volunteers and volunteering at The Points of Light Foundation website.

<https://www.pointsoflight.org/national-volunteer-week/>

Where Would We Be Without Volunteers?

by Jeannie Standal

According to TeamStage.io, one in four Americans volunteers at least once each year. AmeriCorp says volunteer rates in Idaho are even higher at about 38% (that's top 10 in the USA) and about 19% of those volunteers donate their time to educational organizations. Some of those folks are bound to be in your school. Another interesting datapoint? 100% of all nonprofits rely on volunteers. Clearly, this source of unpaid labor is vital to the organizations volunteers support.

National Volunteer Week (April 21-27) is the perfect opportunity to celebrate those that show up to help stuff weekly folders, work with students who need a bit of extra time, shelve the books, keep score, organize fundraisers, supervise field trips, buy chocolate bars and wrapping paper, and more. Consider a few (mostly) free ideas to make your volunteers feel appreciated:

- A VIP parking spot or two for volunteers only.
- Dedicate a place in your school to special volunteers (an art corner, a bench, a bookshelf, etc.)
- Is your volunteer an alum? Or not? Gift them some school gear.
- Nametags that are a bit nicer and more official than the stickers they get when they sign in.
- Design a display honoring your school's volunteers on a prominent bulletin board, or a thank you message on the school's marquee or website, or all three.
- Go old school and send a hand-written thank you card.

Got your own inexpensive, tried, and true volunteer appreciation ideas? [Submit them here](#) and we'll share them in a follow up issue of Low Hanging Fruit.

1AmeriCorp. (n.d.). Volunteering in America: Rankings. [Americorps.gov](https://americorps.gov/sites/default/files/document/Volunteering_in_America_Rankings_508.pdf).
2TeamState Management Software. (2023, May 17). Free Project Management Software. [TeamStage](https://teamstage.io/).

“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.”
-Barack Obama, 44th President of the United States

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS



Help students show volunteers some love by helping them to develop some questions and interview a school volunteer. They can then write about it, record it for a podcast, or edit a video interview. Perhaps the results could be shared on the school's social media, or through a newsletter.

DIGITAL TOOLS



PBS LearningMedia: IdahoPTV and PBS have curated FREE, curriculum-aligned videos, interactives, lesson plans, and more for teachers and students. A variety of subjects are available, including four art-specific subjects: dance, theater, visual arts, and music.



“Low Hanging Fruit” is available through school libraries and made possible with support from the Idaho Commission for Libraries. For previous editions, go to: <https://libraries.idaho.gov/lowhangingfruit>.

