



## Planning Your National Volunteer Week Activities

### **When is National Volunteer Week?**

In 2023, National Volunteer Week will be held from April 16-22

### **What is National Volunteer Week?**

National Volunteer Week is an annual celebration intended to spur an important conversation — why volunteers matter.

### **Why is National Volunteer Week Important?**

The goal of National Volunteer Week is twofold: to thank the 24 million volunteers who give their time in support of a multitude of causes and services, and to recognize the valuable role of volunteer-supported non-profits, organizations and other initiatives.

## **IDEAS & THOUGHT-STARTERS**

Have fun! Activities can be short or one-day only. Don't feel obligated to fill the whole week or create multi-day activities. Similarly, booths and displays may only need to be set up for an hour or two to be effective. As mandates continue to shift consider more virtual, or a socially distanced celebration.

- Encourage your team to write personalized thank you cards to volunteers who support your organization.
- Reach out to your local government officials to inform them of your community's planned activities. Encourage them to make a declaration, or to post on social media to help raise awareness for all of the work your volunteers do.
- Survey your volunteers ahead of time and ask why they volunteer. Then, use their answers to create inspirational graphics you can share throughout the week on social media. These can also be used to make posters at appreciation events, or just hang up around your office.
- Find out your volunteer's language of recognition so you can plan meaningful recognition activities.
- Write a reference letter for a volunteer who is applying for a job, internship or school program.
- We don't always see volunteers in action. Ask volunteers to share stories about their fellow volunteers. Are they constantly impressed by someone's positive attitude? Have they seen a volunteer diffuse a challenging situation?
- Organize a scavenger hunt in your neighbourhood, town or city. Provide clues within a walking loop to encourage exercise. Find the clues, answer the questions, win the prize!