



Leader Appreciation Ideas

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If you haven't already done so, here are some quick and easy ways to let your volunteers know this holiday season how much you appreciate their service in Pioneer Clubs. Most of these ideas can be used around Christmas or revised to be used throughout the year.

Volunteer Christmas Tree

Take a picture of each club volunteer, and mat each one on cardstock. Leave room to write a word of thanks on the picture or mat. Punch a hole in the top for attaching ribbon to make an ornament. Put up an appropriately sized Christmas tree in the church lobby and hang the ornaments on it.

Pioneer Clubs Recipe Book

Ask various members of the congregation for favorite holiday recipes. Include great grilling recipes if your male club leaders don't like to cook. Put recipes together into a notebook for each Pioneer Clubs volunteer. Include a special page for each volunteer, saying, for instance, "John's Recipe." Then brainstorm with your committee about good qualities in that volunteer. Put them together into a "recipe" that makes up that person: "John's Recipe: 1 cup kindness, 1 teaspoon artistic ability, 2 tablespoons prayer, etc. Mix well with 2 dashes of laughter. Yield: 10 excited Pathfinders."

Christmas Gift

Wrap up a special gift for each volunteer. Ideas: a devotional book that your pastor recommends, a gift card, a board game for the whole family to enjoy.

Christmas Photos

Find a good amateur photographer in your congregation. Take holiday photos of each volunteer and his or her family beside the church's Christmas tree. Print out the photos or email the digital ones to your volunteers to use however they would like.

Video of Kids

Take short videos of club members saying what they like about their club leaders. Consider including words from parents and a Christmas or New Year's devotional thought from the pastor. Edit the clips together and burn the video onto a disk for each volunteer.

Stamped Treats

Find a couple of scrapbookers or rubber stampers in the congregation who would be willing to make decorative wrappers for candy bars or envelopes of soup. Ask them to use stamps with a Christmas or New Year's theme. Add an appropriate "thank you" stamped sentiment. The Internet has lots of fun ideas.

Coordinator's New Year's Resolutions

Think of what each club leader might appreciate from you in the new year. Give each club leader a note or card with a resolution from you on it: "In the new year, I resolve to take you out for coffee to hear about how your club is going"; "My New Year's resolution is to provide you with two snacks that you don't have to prepare yourself"; and so on.