

Staying Connected with Volunteers During COVID-19

Guide

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Keeping volunteers connected

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Convert in-person roles to online opportunities

Revisit your volunteer roles to see whether part or all of them could be completed from home. Remember to keep cyber security in mind; you may also need to check in with your volunteers about any additional data or phone costs and offer support.

Plan for National Volunteer Week

the morning teas may be virtual this year, but plan to email or post cards, recognition on your website and social channels, and perhaps a virtual get together via an online conferencing app. Check our National Volunteer Week [page](#) for ideas.

Run an online recognition program

it could be a formal awards program, or just showcasing volunteers who have made great contributions via your website, newsletter or social channels (remember to check for permission if necessary before you share)

Plan some volunteer training

from sending out reading materials through to delivering training online, use the chance to upskill volunteers as needed.

Help your volunteers stay connected

...with family and friends. If you've become a whiz at using online video conferencing platforms, why not share? Send out some simple instructions, then follow up with a practical online group session.

Update your organisation's timeline and history

It provides recognition for achievements made with volunteers who have been with you for the long haul and fills in details for volunteers who have joined more recently. You could even run an online process asking volunteers to nominate memories of great achievements or milestones in your history. Share the stories and encourage volunteers to keep with you on the journey.

Virtual get-togethers

Not every online meeting or conference call has to be about your organisation's work! Meeting virtually for friendship is a great idea and the chance to catch up as usual with volunteer and staff colleagues. To do this effectively, you might like to put some topics in place first and actively move the discussion around the group to give everyone a chance to speak.

Get competitive

Put together an easy competition: best store cupboard recipe, the isolation baking championships, home or garden projects completed in lockdown, best pet photos. It's a good way for volunteers (and staff) to connect.

I'm Grateful photo share

an album of the everyday curated by the volunteer team leader. Each week volunteers take a pic of one aspect of home they are grateful for and send to the volunteer co-ordinator who collates them into a slide show and sends back to the volunteer team. Suggest setting parameters of the photo (eg; close up, no identifying background, no people) and a theme each week that mitigates any privacy concerns.

More information

For more information on volunteering during COVID-19 go to <https://www.volunteeringvictoria.org.au/covid19-forvolunteers/>

For more information on volunteer management during COVID-10 go to <https://www.volunteeringvictoria.org.au/covid19volunteermanagers/>