

Types of Volunteers

Having volunteers in all roles is key to your agricultural literacy program's success. As you engage your volunteers, think of how you can best prepare them to make your event successful while also providing them with a sense of fulfillment and meaning because of their actions.

1. One-time Event Volunteer

- **Level of Involvement:** One-time Event Volunteers help with day-of responsibilities at individual events.
- **Recruitment Techniques:**
 - Ask people you know from other community events, organizations, and activities.
 - Think of people beyond who "comes to mind" initially – this way, you can avoid over-utilizing some volunteers and under-utilizing others.
 - Emphasize that you are not looking for a large time commitment – just an hour or two.
 - Think about the benefits of volunteering at a one-time event. Share why you've continued to volunteer.
- **Engagement Examples:**
 - Read to local elementary students for a class period.
 - Meet with legislators during a Day at the Capitol.

2. Returning Event Volunteer

- **Level of Involvement:** Returning Event Volunteers have helped with the same events many times – this could be a recurring yearly service opportunity or multiple events in a shorter span of time as part of a special program.
- **Recruitment Techniques:**
 - These volunteers can be easier to contact for events because you already have their contact information and you have previously established a relationship.
 - Remember not to over-utilize these volunteers. Don't make an ask every time you have an event, and be sure to express your gratitude when you see them at the events to which they donate their time.
 - If you have had one-time event volunteers who enjoyed their experiences, consider inviting them back to another event.
- **Engagement Examples:**
 - Volunteer at several County Farm Bureau events hosted throughout the year.
 - Partner with the local FFA chapter to run an agriculture literacy program each spring.

3. Planning Committee Member

- **Level of Involvement:** Planning Committee Members are volunteers who helped plan the details of the event, often volunteering more time prior to the event than at the event itself.

- **Recruitment Techniques:**
 - If you have a planning committee for an event – or less formally, a group of volunteers who are most involved in the planning of an event – it can be challenging to fill an open role in that committee. First, look to other volunteers who have been involved with the event or similar events in the past. They will have valuable experiences and perspectives to contribute.
- **Engagement Examples:**
 - Use your expertise as a County Farm Bureau board member to help plan a county event.
 - Volunteer for a committee that is planning an event.

4. Key Organizer/Coordinator

- **Level of Involvement:** Key Organizers and Coordinators are the people most involved with the planning and execution of an event. They often help to organize other volunteers, plan out responsibilities, and are the “go-to” person for any questions or decisions.
- **Recruitment Techniques:**
 - Most likely, key organizers and coordinators were involved with this event at another step prior to leading. They may have started at any step of this pathway, gotten involved, and decided they wanted to continue volunteering at a more engaged level. Sometimes, these volunteers also work for the organization which is running the event, and this is a part of their job. Look at the involved volunteers at other steps in this pathway for your event to find someone who may be a good candidate to become the next key organizer or coordinator.
- **Engagement Examples:**
 - Organize an ag literacy event and coordinate volunteers for it.
 - Coordinate with the local school to organize agriculture programs for their students.

