

Recognition

Imagine that you are the president of a campus organization. Your organization is effectively run, consistently and thoroughly publicizes events, and has a great turnout when it comes to campus activities. However, you are slowly losing members. What could be wrong? You may be running an organization smoothly, but failing to recognize the members of your organization. Recognition is something that everyone needs—even leaders like you. By recognizing members of your club, you may be ensuring that you have those members in the future and that your organization will continue to be an active club after you graduate from Goucher. This tip sheet can help you develop ideas for recognizing club members, some suggestions are silly, while others are more serious, however any type of recognition is appreciated.

What Recognition Does

Recognizing your organization's members is one of the best way to retain those members, a problem that many organizations face. When you recognize someone for their work, it shows that you care about that person and their efforts.

Recognizing Active Members

It's easy to recognize the new additions to your organization and those who are leaving but how do you recognize those members who are in the middle of the road? It is so important to recognize the sophomores and juniors in your organization because they will soon become the leaders of the organization. If you have a lot of inactive club members, they might want to become more active if you were to recognize them—even in a humorous, silly way.

How to Recognize Members of Your Organization

During the semester— When members of your organization go above and beyond, they would appreciate being recognized by other members and leaders of the organization. One of the best ways to recognize someone is through verbal recognition. At meetings, thank those members who have done something for the club—whether that something is small or large. When you see those members outside of meetings, you might want to thank them again for their effort and tell them how much their membership positively impacts the organization's success.

For members of your organization who have recently completed a large project for the club, you could take them out to dinner to show your thanks, or have a club dinner on campus that would thank everyone for their hard work in putting together a project.

End of the semester— The end of the semester is a great time to acknowledge your organization's members.

Here are some fun, and more serious ways to recognize your members:

- Write wacky awards for the end of fall semester
- Write serious awards for the end of spring semester
- Send holiday cards
- Distribute gifts to your members (pencils, pens, erasers, candy, etc.)
- Nominate people for other leadership roles on campus

The end of the semester is also a good time to acknowledge those people who are not in your organization but have helped you or your organization throughout the semester. Depending on the level of involvement, a good way to recognize these people is through a personal thank you note or dinner.

Members of the Office of Student Engagement (OSE) staff are available to assist you with any questions you have regarding leadership issues. The OSE is open Monday through Friday 9 a.m.—5 p.m. For more information, please contact the office at 410.337.6124.