



## 5 tips for businesses to get the most from volunteering.

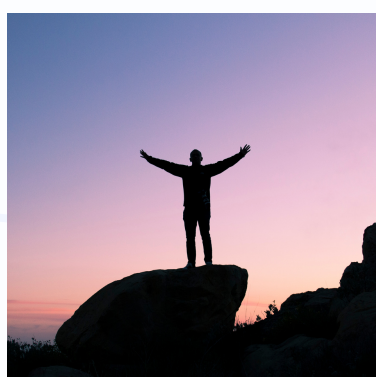
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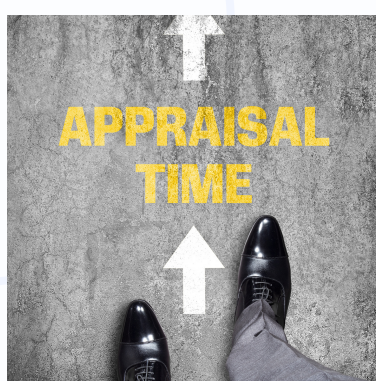
**1. Keep your team-building budget separate from your volunteer budget. If staff feel coerced into 'volunteering', it will cause resentment. Finding an organisation that will allow your team to volunteer together for one day can also cause more of a headache than a helping hand. Especially if it's at short notice.**



**2. Be flexible. Allow staff to decide how and when to use their time. Be prepared to engage with staff already volunteering and investigate if you can accommodate that.**



**3. Lead from the front. Encourage your senior management team to share their volunteering experiences and ensure they are seen to use their own days.**



**4. Embed volunteering in your appraisal and staff development systems. Help them find a volunteering opportunity to help them build the skills they need.**



**5. Capture the benefits. If you've had a good policy for a while, it can be easy for people to take it for granted. Don't measure things for the sake of it. Instead, ask your team to articulate what they love about having a workplace that enables them to engage with their community and can remind them of the benefits of working with you.**

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