

Team Development: Motivating Team Captains

Recognition is an excellent way to motivate people. People love to be told that their efforts are appreciated and that they are doing a great job. The golden rule: thank people and thank them often!

Examples of Recognition

Monthly Walk to Cure Arthritis Newsletter: Newsletters not only keep participants informed of key events, they provide a perfect forum for recognizing accomplishments and sharing knowledge! Include stories about a team or Team Captain who is doing exceptionally well in their fundraising efforts. Highlight a team or Team Captain who is doing something unique to raise their funds. Share a personal testimony of how the Arthritis Foundation is making a difference in a team member's life through the Walk to Cure Arthritis.

Thank You Letters: Not only should you send thank you letters to your Team Captains, but it is also a good idea to send a note to their senior management and supervisor commending them for serving their community.

Buttons: Provide Team Captains and team members with brightly colored buttons or stickers that they can wear in the weeks leading up to the Walk to Cure Arthritis and on the event day. Not only will it increase awareness and fundraising efforts but it will also give your teams a sense of pride. Don't have a lot of money to spend? Print some stickers with your computer and give each team a few sheets. Ask your Arthritis Foundation staff to provide you with a template.

Recognition at Meetings: Invite your top fundraising team, Team Captain or participant to your Walk to Cure Arthritis Committee meeting and recognize their commitment and fundraising efforts.

Wrap-up Party: Work with your Arthritis Foundation staff to organize a celebration four to six weeks after your Walk to Cure Arthritis to distribute Top Team awards and recognize top fundraisers. Ask committee members if they would be willing to host a backyard BBQ, or reserve the picnic area at a local park. Some activities you may want to include:

- Recognize the team with the most participants
- Recognize the top fundraising team
- Recognize the highest top individual fundraiser
- Recognize the highest fundraising business, school, and/or civic organization
- Recognize teams who raised over \$1,000
- Give a small gift of thanks to all Team Captains
- Have your Walk to Cure Arthritis Honoree speak and thank everyone
- Thank all committee members
- Recognize all sponsors
- Ask Team Captains to fill out a commitment form for next year!