Building a Committee

Think of it as finding new friends or dating someone - how you would treat them? You are building relationships from scratch. A strong committee comes from good relationships. Building a committee and developing relationships with volunteers take time and nurturing. Here are some ways to get started:

**People You Know**
- At work and at home – coworkers, business associates, friends, neighbors, family
- Online – VolunteerMatch, NextDoor, Craigslist, etc. all have volunteer listings
- Local chapter
  - Attend Committee Meetings and ask members to each recommend a potential committee member
  - Ask your Arthritis Foundation staff to recommend committee members from local programs (Ex. parents of children that attend kids’ camps, program leaders, team captains, top participants, etc.)

**Subscribe to the Local Newspaper**
- Scan the “What’s Happening” section
- Keep track of who you send articles/cards/newsletters to

**Join a Community Organization (Chamber, Rotary Club, Junior League, etc.)**
- Attend every function. Wear a name tag and introduce yourself to everyone
- Ask about their experience with arthritis or if they know someone with arthritis
- Gather names and business cards

**Attend Other Nonprofit Events**
- Network with other attendees and ask for their assistance for your event
- Ask about their experience with arthritis
- Find out their areas of expertise

**Prepare Short Presentations**
- Ask your local Arthritis Foundation staff or Media/PR Chairperson for assistance in reaching out to local TV stations to book honorees or event volunteers as guests on a noon show or local radio
- Ask to speak at local schools
- Make presentations at local civic clubs or, if possible, join as a member

**Stay in Contact**
- Send a local newsletter from your office to prospective volunteers
- Keep the research and mission in the forefront
- Send a birthday or holiday card
- Pick up the phone!