

Step by Step Guide for Businesses to Getting Involved in the National Day of Volunteering



The National Day of Volunteering is that one day of the year when we encourage everyone in Ireland to give volunteering a go, to show that – even for a minute, an hour, a day – volunteering can make a big difference and be a lot of fun! You can get involved as a company, an individual employee, with a group of colleagues – or why not invite friends and family to join in?

Here are some tips on how to get involved.....

1. Log on to www.volunteer.ie to find out more about NDV and be inspired!

Discover what NDV is all about and browse through examples of what others have done on previous NDVs.

2. Gather a group of colleagues that share the same interests

Have a think about social issues that concern you (the environment, homelessness, young people or older people, for example) and how you would like to make a difference on the National Day of Volunteering. You can choose to volunteer together, in smaller groups or individually – a little bit of competition never hurt! Why not set yourselves a challenge? Decide which one of you will be the project leader or the main contact for partner organisations or your local volunteer centre.

3. Register for an existing project

Log onto our website www.volunteer.ie and look at the National Day of Volunteering projects that require volunteers – there may be an opportunity you are interested in already.

4. Create your own project!

Think of something that needs doing and set about doing it. Take a look around you and think, what are the most pressing social issues and how can we help? Your company might already be involved with an organisation or charity. Why not get in touch with them and find out if they need some assistance for a day? The skills and talents of your group might be just what they are looking for! You could suggest an event that involves either 'hard graft' or more skilled volunteering. If you were involved in NDV previously, why not get in touch with the organisation again this year – or offer the same volunteering project to a different charity? If you have your own idea, be sure to register it on our website so that your company is recognised for the contribution it is making to the community. Corporations may do this alone or partner with an organisation that you have an existing role with.

5. Take part in our flagship event

Every year NDV has a flagship event that shows community cohesiveness. This year's flagship event is a national 'knit-a-thon'. Visit www.volunteer.ie for more information on the project and how to get involved.

Remember every little bit helps, so no matter how big or small, we are sure there are ways you can help!

6. Commit one or more Random Acts of Volunteering

Take a look at our website where you will find a list of 31 random acts to choose from. Why not get your whole company or department to commit a RAV during lunchtime? Or maybe there are RAVs that can be done from your desk? This is a great opportunity to be creative, so why not have a brainstorm and surprise yourselves? Be sure to register your RAVs on our website, post it on our facebook page or tweet us @voluntireland and pass it on!

7. Say thank you to someone who volunteers

Why not use NDV to say thank you to all the people in your company that volunteer? If you have a CSR department, why not ask them to gather all the names of people that volunteer in your company and send them a note of thanks? Visit our website and download one of our sample thank you cards. You can also register the names of volunteers with us so we can count them in our Volunteering Roll of Honour. If you are involved in charities or organisations that involve volunteers, you could also encourage them to say thanks too.

8. Be sure to publicise your event

This is a great opportunity to let the public know about the great things your company is doing for the community. Try advertising your event through your local media outlets. Make sure to take pictures of your event and send them to us at ndv@volunteer.ie so that we can post them on our website.

Don't forget the basics

- www.volunteer.ie and your local Volunteer Centre are here to help you if you need further information or advice
- If you've registered for a project, don't forget to confirm your involvement close to the day and make sure you know when and where it's happening
- If you're organising a project yourself, make sure every one knows where to be and when, there are enough supplies and that you've thought about health and safety and insurance.
- Let us know what you're up to so we can count you in.
- Take pictures and share your experience with us on Facebook or tweet us @voluntireland
- Spread the word! Let others know you are getting involved in NDV and suggest they do the same.

