

Top 10 Reasons Why Your Organization Does NOT Need Training in Volunteer Management

Susan J. Ellis

#10:

You already have 3 members of the Gates family volunteering with you and a Buffett waiting in the wings.

#9:

Your staff already possesses all the knowledge in the world and adores multitasking for hours on end.

#8:

Volunteers have helped you generate so many creative ideas for meeting your clients' needs that Wikipedia defines "innovation" simply with the name of your organization.

#7:

You have such a wide age range of volunteers that you've run out of storage space for their bicycles, walkers, and strollers while they are on site.

#6:

You are so savvy in your use of social media, thanks to the work of volunteers, that you've had more viral messages than the Centers for Disease Control.

#5:

Volunteers choose your training events and other meetings over less important things to do... like lunch with Hugh Jackman.

#4:

Your freezer is fully stocked with high-quality volunteers so all you have to do is defrost them when needed.

#3:

Your volunteers believe so passionately about your mission that you have had to hire another accountant just to process the money they have donated as well as time.

#2:

Volunteers are so satisfied and happy, they throw recognition events for the paid staff.

And the #1 reason why your organization does not need training in volunteer management is:

Your organization has fully achieved your mission and you're just holding on until you retire because there's nothing left that needs to be done.

Of course...if these statements do NOT describe *your* organization, maybe it's time to increase your volunteer engagement skills!

By Susan J. Ellis, president of Energize, Inc. (www.energizeinc.com), an international training, consulting and publishing firm specializing in volunteerism.