**One California Library shares its survey questions of adult volunteers and a sampling of their responses:**

Noteworthy statistics

* Regarding volunteer recognition, 60% think a verbal “thank you” is desirable
* 90% answered that a verbal “thank you,” handwritten note, or small treat would be enough recognition for them
* 30% would like to be recognized at an in-person event
* 10% of respondents say that they have other skills to offer to the library or would like to learn additional skills
* 20% think that the climate of teamwork among staff and volunteers needs improvement

Some volunteer survey comments

**Q:  Why did you choose to volunteer at the library?**

Sample answers:

*Wanted to help people improve communication skills and reach goals to improve their lives*

*Chose to become a technology volunteer because it aligned with my background, and I could make the most impact*

*The gift is in the giving.*

*The friendliness and knowledge of the Makerspace volunteers got me hooked as a user. Now I volunteer and love the library and all that volunteers do.*

*It’s one of my favorite places. I love that anyone is welcome and that education, exploring, and learning are encouraged.*

*Social connection with community.*

*I love reading and books.*

*The library is a happy place for me.*

*Valuable job experience working with children and teenagers.*

*Wanted to help.*

**Q:  What keeps you volunteering here?**

Sample answers:

*Comradery of colleagues and supervisors*

*I am useful.*

*My learner’s progress*

*Warm and welcoming staff who express their appreciation plus the interesting patrons!*

*Connecting with kids and enriching their education*

*Helping people create projects*

*Helping veterans and their families*

**Q:  What has been your best day as a library volunteer?**

Sample answers:

*When a student has a breakthrough moment*

*Everyday has been my best day!*

*When I coached a 9-year-old to create a skirt for her sister’s 5th birthday, and she had never sewn before*

*Watching children’s excitement in selecting a book and taking it home*

*So many…. helping a new teacher choose books for her class, finding classics for high school students, being greeted by regulars*

**Q:  In your role as volunteer, what do you want to learn?**

Summary:

For those answering this question, most want to be helpful and prepared in their volunteer roles.  Some want to learn more about the other libraryvolunteer program areas, and many want to learn more about the library in general and receive more communication.  Others told me they speak multiple languages or have high-level degrees and will help if needed.