

# VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION SONGS FOR KIDS Tutorial

## Volunteer Appreciation Songs for Kids: Celebrating Acts of Kindness with Music

**Volunteer appreciation songs for kids** are a wonderful way to recognize and celebrate young volunteers' efforts in community service, school projects, or charitable events. Music has a unique power to inspire, motivate, and foster a sense of belonging among children. When paired with the act of expressing gratitude, these songs can leave a lasting impact on young volunteers, encouraging them to continue their good work and feel valued for their contributions. Whether used during appreciation ceremonies, school assemblies, or casual group activities, these songs help create a joyful and memorable atmosphere centered around kindness and community involvement.

## The Importance of Volunteer Appreciation Songs for Kids

### Fostering a Culture of Giving

Songs dedicated to volunteer appreciation serve as a fun and engaging way to instill values of generosity and service in children. When kids see their efforts recognized through music, they learn that helping others is meaningful and appreciated.

### Encouraging Continued Participation

Positive reinforcement through songs can motivate kids to participate in future volunteer activities. It helps build their confidence and reinforces the idea that their contributions matter.

### Building a Sense of Community

Music creates a shared experience. Singing together during appreciation events fosters camaraderie among young volunteers, strengthening their bond with the community and each other.

## Popular Themes in Volunteer Appreciation Songs for Kids

- Gratitude and Thankfulness: Expressing appreciation for kids' efforts.
- Teamwork and Cooperation: Emphasizing the importance of working together.
- Kindness and Compassion: Highlighting acts of kindness.

- Responsibility and Leadership: Encouraging kids to take initiative.
- Joy of Giving: Celebrating the happiness that comes from helping others.

## Examples of Volunteer Appreciation Songs for Kids

Below are some creative and meaningful songs tailored for children to celebrate their volunteer efforts.

### 1. "Thank You, Little Hero"

Theme: Recognizing kids as heroes in their acts of kindness.

Sample lyrics:

- > Thank you, little hero, for all you do,
- > Your kindness shines bright, like the sun so true.
- > Helping and sharing, you make the world better,
- > We're so proud of you, our caring go-getter!

### 2. "The Giving Song"

Theme: Celebrating the joy of giving and sharing.

Sample lyrics:

- > When you give a smile or lend a hand,
- > It makes the world a brighter land.
- > Giving is caring, giving is kind,
- > It's a gift that's always on our mind!

### 3. "Together We Can"

Theme: Promoting teamwork and unity among young volunteers.

Sample lyrics:

- > Together we can, together we'll try,
- > To make a difference, reach for the sky.
- > Hand in hand, heart to heart,
- > We're volunteers, doing our part!

#### 4. "The Kindness Parade"

Theme: Celebrating acts of kindness as a parade of goodness.

Sample lyrics:

- > Marching along, with hearts full of cheer,
- > Showing kindness, far and near.
- > Join the parade, let's spread love around,
- > Kindness is the best gift we've found!

#### 5. "Our Volunteer Song"

Theme: A simple, catchy song that kids can easily learn and sing.

Sample lyrics:

- > We help our friends, we share our smile,
- > Making the world a better place, mile by mile.
- > Volunteer, volunteer, that's what we do,
- > Because we care, and so do you!

### Tips for Creating Your Own Volunteer Appreciation Songs for Kids

Creating personalized songs can be a meaningful way to recognize specific efforts. Here are some tips:

## 1. Keep Lyrics Simple and Catchy

Use easy-to-remember words and a repetitive chorus to make the song accessible for young children.

## 2. Incorporate Rhymes and Rhythms

Rhyming lines and rhythmic melodies make the song more engaging and fun to sing.

## 3. Focus on Positive Messages

Highlight qualities like kindness, teamwork, and responsibility to reinforce good values.

## 4. Involve Kids in Songwriting

Encourage children to share their ideas or help write lyrics, fostering ownership and pride.

## 5. Use Musical Instruments and Movements

Add simple instruments or gestures to enhance participation and enjoyment.

## Activities to Complement Volunteer Appreciation Songs for Kids

Music is most effective when paired with interactive activities. Consider these ideas:

- Sing-Along Sessions: Organize group singing during appreciation events.
- Create Personalized Songs: Have children write their own verses for a song.
- Performances: Arrange mini-concerts where kids perform their songs.
- Music and Art Projects: Combine song themes with drawing or crafting activities.
- Recognition Ceremonies: Use songs as part of awards or certificate presentations.

## Benefits of Using Volunteer Appreciation Songs for Kids

- Enhance Emotional Connection: Music helps children connect emotionally to the act of giving.
- Promote Self-Esteem: Recognized efforts boost confidence.
- Develop Social Skills: Singing and performing together foster teamwork.
- Encourage Future Volunteerism: Positive experiences inspire ongoing participation.
- Create Lasting Memories: Songs serve as joyful reminders of their contributions.

## Conclusion: Celebrating Kids? Volunteering Through Music

Volunteer appreciation songs for kids are powerful tools to honor their kindness, inspire continued service, and build a spirit of community. Whether traditional tunes, original compositions, or fun renditions, music adds a lively and heartfelt dimension to recognizing young volunteers. By incorporating these songs into appreciation events, schools, and community programs, adults can nurture a generation that values compassion, teamwork, and giving back. Encourage children to sing, create, and share their own volunteer songs?they will not only feel appreciated but also develop lifelong values through the universal language of music.

Volunteer appreciation songs for kids: An in-depth exploration of their impact, selection, and significance

In the realm of community service and youth engagement, volunteer appreciation songs for kids serve as powerful tools to foster gratitude, instill values of service, and create memorable experiences for young volunteers. As organizations and schools increasingly recognize the importance of acknowledging children's contributions, the role of music as a medium for appreciation has garnered attention. This comprehensive review delves into the origins, significance, selection criteria, popular examples, and best practices surrounding volunteer appreciation songs tailored for kids.

## The Significance of Volunteer Appreciation Songs for Kids

### Why Music Matters in Recognizing Youth Volunteers

Music has long been intertwined with human expression, emotion, and community bonding. When it comes to children, songs are especially impactful?they are accessible, engaging, and memorable. Incorporating volunteer appreciation songs for kids into ceremonies or events offers multiple benefits:

- Emotional Connection: Songs evoke feelings of pride, belonging, and appreciation.
- Reinforcement of Values: Lyrics often emphasize themes like kindness, teamwork, and service.
- Memorability: Catchy tunes help children remember the significance of their contribution.
- Inclusive Participation: Singing together fosters a sense of unity and shared purpose.

Research indicates that incorporating music into recognition events enhances the positive impact, making children feel genuinely valued and motivated to continue their community involvement.

## Historical Context and Evolution of Volunteer Appreciation Songs for Kids

Historically, appreciation for volunteers has been expressed through speeches, certificates, and awards. However, the integration of songs specifically designed for children emerged as a response to the need for more engaging, age-appropriate recognition methods.

In the early 20th century, community and school events often featured patriotic and moral songs, which later evolved into dedicated appreciation tunes. The 1960s and 1970s saw the rise of educational and motivational songs aimed at instilling civic values among youth. Over time, the focus shifted from mere recognition to active participation, leading to the creation of volunteer appreciation songs for kids that blend fun with meaningful messages.

## Criteria for Selecting Volunteer Appreciation Songs for Kids

Choosing the right song is crucial to maximize its impact. Here are key factors organizations and educators consider:

### Age Appropriateness

- Lyrics should be simple, clear, and relatable.
- Melody should be easy to sing, even for children with limited musical training.

### Theme and Message

- Emphasize gratitude, community, kindness, and teamwork.
- Avoid overly sentimental or complex messages that might confuse young children.

### Engagement Level

- Upbeat and lively tunes encourage participation.
- Opportunities for movement or gestures to enhance enjoyment.

### Cultural Relevance

- Respect diverse backgrounds and ensure lyrics are inclusive.
- Consider local traditions or languages if applicable.

### Longevity and Reusability

- Choose songs that can be adapted for various events.
- Timeless melodies tend to resonate longer.

## Popular Volunteer Appreciation Songs for Kids: A Review

This section highlights some of the most effective and widely used songs in youth volunteer recognition, analyzing their lyrics, musical style, and suitability.

### 1. "Thank You Song" (Traditional or Customizable Versions)

- Simple, repetitive lyrics like "Thank you, thank you, for all you do."
- Easily adapted with personalized names or specific actions.
- Suitable for younger children due to its simplicity.

### 2. "We Are the Volunteers" (Original Composition)

- Lyrics promote teamwork and collective effort.
- Example chorus: "We are the volunteers, helping hands, hearts so true, working together, making a difference, me and you!"
- Upbeat melody encourages group singing.

### 3. "Kindness Counts" (Educational Song)

- Focuses on acts of kindness, empathy, and appreciation.
- Lyrics like "A little kindness goes a long way; thank you for sharing today."
- Often set to cheerful tunes, suitable for school programs.

### 4. "The Giving Song" (Inspirational Song)

- Emphasizes the joy of giving and service.
- Lyrics: "Giving is a gift that makes us shine, thank you for your kindness all the time."
- Melodic and easy to remember.

### 5. "Singing for Service" (Original or Popular Tunes)

- Uses familiar melodies like "This Land Is Your Land" or "If You're Happy and You Know It."

- Adapted with lyrics about service and appreciation.
- Facilitates participation through familiar tunes.

## Examples of Volunteer Appreciation Songs for Kids

Below are some sample lyrics and melodies that can be incorporated into recognition events:

### Sample Song 1: "Thank You, Volunteers"

To the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star"

Thank you, thank you, volunteers,

For all the kindness that appears,

Helping others every day,

You make the world a brighter place.

Thank you, thank you, volunteers,

We appreciate your caring ways.

### Sample Song 2: "Helpers All Around" (Original or Adapted)

To the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"

Help, help, help us all,

In so many ways,

Thanks for lending your big hearts,

Every single day!

## Incorporating Volunteer Songs into Recognition Events

To maximize the effectiveness of volunteer appreciation songs for kids, organizers should consider the following best practices:

- Preparation: Teach the song in advance, perhaps during a class or meeting.
- Participation: Involve children in singing, possibly with choreography or gestures.
- Personalization: Customize lyrics to reflect specific projects or individuals.
- Celebration Timing: Use songs during awards ceremonies, concluding events, or community gatherings.
- Visual Aids: Incorporate banners, slides, or props to enhance engagement.

## Challenges and Considerations

While songs are powerful tools, there are challenges to consider:

- Language Barriers: Use simple language or translations for diverse groups.
- Musical Ability: Not all children may feel confident singing; consider alternative participation methods.
- Cultural Sensitivity: Ensure lyrics are respectful and inclusive.
- Event Context: Choose songs that suit the tone?formal vs. informal.

## Conclusion: The Power of Songs in Cultivating a Culture of Appreciation

Volunteer appreciation songs for kids are more than just musical numbers?they are catalysts for fostering a culture of gratitude, teamwork, and community involvement among young people. When thoughtfully selected and skillfully integrated into recognition events, these songs ignite enthusiasm, reinforce positive values, and leave lasting impressions on children. As community leaders, educators, and organizers continue to seek meaningful ways to honor young volunteers, music remains an accessible and impactful avenue for expressing heartfelt appreciation.

By understanding the origins, selecting appropriate songs, and employing best practices, organizations can ensure that their recognition efforts resonate deeply with children, encouraging ongoing participation and nurturing the next generation of compassionate, community-minded individuals.

**Question** What are some popular volunteer appreciation songs for kids? Popular songs include 'Thank You Song,' 'You've Got a Friend in Me,' 'We Are the World,' and fun, upbeat tunes like 'Happy' by Pharrell Williams adapted for kids to celebrate volunteers. **Answer** How can I make volunteer appreciation songs engaging for children? Use simple lyrics, catchy melodies, interactive actions, and involve kids in singing or dancing to make the songs fun and memorable. Are there any specific songs suitable for young children to thank volunteers? Yes, songs like 'Thank You' by Laurie Berkner and 'Thanks a Lot' by Barney are age-appropriate and easy for kids to sing. Can I create my own volunteer appreciation song for kids? Absolutely! You can write simple lyrics highlighting the

volunteers' efforts and set them to a familiar tune or create a new, easy-to-sing melody. What are some tips for teaching kids a volunteer appreciation song? Use repetition, visual aids, and practice sessions. Incorporate actions or dance moves to help kids remember the lyrics and stay engaged. Are there any online resources for volunteer appreciation songs for kids? Yes, websites like YouTube, Pinterest, and educational platforms offer downloadable lyrics, music videos, and tutorials for kids' appreciation songs. How can music be used to motivate kids to appreciate volunteers? Music creates a joyful atmosphere, helps children connect emotionally, and makes the act of appreciation fun and memorable. What role do volunteer appreciation songs play in kids' events? They foster a sense of gratitude, encourage participation, and make recognition ceremonies more lively and meaningful. Are there multicultural volunteer appreciation songs suitable for kids? Yes, songs like 'Gracias' in Spanish or songs incorporating different languages can promote inclusivity and cultural awareness among children. How can I incorporate volunteer appreciation songs into a school or community event? Plan rehearsals with the children, incorporate the songs into the program schedule, and encourage kids to perform with enthusiasm to celebrate volunteers.

**Related keywords:** volunteer recognition songs, kids appreciation songs, children's thank you songs, volunteer thank you songs, kids gratitude songs, appreciation music for children, youth volunteer songs, positive reinforcement songs for kids, children's motivational songs, gratitude songs for kids

## FREE SCHOOL EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAYS 2015

**free school employee appreciation days 2015** marked an important opportunity for schools and communities nationwide to recognize and celebrate the dedicated efforts of educators and staff members. These appreciation days serve as a vital reminder of the crucial role that teachers, administrators, custodians, cafeteria workers, and support staff play in shaping the future of students and fostering positive learning environments. Understanding the significance, planning ideas, and historical context of these events can help schools maximize their impact and ensure staff feel valued and appreciated.

## The Significance of Employee Appreciation Days in Schools

### Recognizing Dedication and Hard Work

School employees are often the unsung heroes of education. Their daily commitment involves more than just teaching lessons; they develop relationships, support student well-being, manage administrative tasks, maintain facilities, and contribute to a safe and nurturing environment. Appreciation days serve to acknowledge these efforts publicly, boosting morale and reinforcing the

importance of their roles.

## Building a Positive School Culture

Celebrating school employees fosters a culture of gratitude and respect. When staff members feel appreciated, they are more motivated, engaged, and committed to their work. This positivity can translate into better student outcomes and a more cohesive school community.

## Overview of Free School Employee Appreciation Days 2015

In 2015, several specific days and initiatives were dedicated to honoring school employees across the United States. These days often coincided with national recognition campaigns or were organized locally by school districts, parent groups, or community organizations.

### Key Dates and Events in 2015

While the exact dates of appreciation days can vary by region, some common observances included:

- **National Education Support Professionals Week** ? Usually held in late February or early March, this week honors support staff such as paraprofessionals, secretaries, bus drivers, and custodians.
- **National Teacher Appreciation Week** ? Typically in the first full week of May, this week celebrates teachers' contributions.
- **School Employee Appreciation Day** ? Often observed in April or May, this day is dedicated to recognizing all school staff members beyond teachers.

In 2015, many schools and districts aligned their celebrations with these national observances, tailoring activities to highlight the diverse roles within their staff.

## Planning and Celebrating Employee Appreciation Days in 2015

Effective planning is key to making appreciation days meaningful. Schools often organized a variety of activities and events to honor their staff.

### Ideas for Celebrations and Recognitions

Here are some popular ways schools celebrated in 2015:

- **Personalized Thank-You Notes:** Administrators and students wrote heartfelt messages to staff members, highlighting their individual contributions.
- **Staff Luncheons or Breakfasts:** Hosting a special meal provided an informal setting for appreciation and camaraderie.
- **Award Ceremonies:** Recognizing outstanding employees with awards or certificates fostered pride and motivation.
- **Decorations and Wall of Fame:** Decorating hallways with banners, posters, and photos celebrating staff achievements created a festive atmosphere.
- **Gifts and Tokens of Appreciation:** Small gifts, such as mugs, plaques, or school-branded merchandise, served as lasting reminders of appreciation.
- **Community Involvement:** Inviting students and parents to participate in appreciation activities strengthened community bonds.

## Involving Students and Parents

Engaging students and parents in appreciation efforts can amplify the impact. Students can create artwork, write letters, or perform songs dedicated to staff members. Parent-teacher organizations can contribute by organizing appreciation events or providing resources.

## Historical Context and the Evolution of Appreciation Days

Understanding the history of school employee appreciation days helps appreciate their importance and how they have evolved over time.

### Origins of Employee Appreciation Events

Employee appreciation events in schools trace back several decades, evolving from simple gestures into organized national campaigns. The goal has always been to acknowledge the vital role of staff in student success and school operations.

### National Recognition Campaigns

Organizations like the National Education Association (NEA) and the Department of Education have promoted appreciation initiatives, helping schools nationwide recognize their staff annually. These campaigns have increased awareness and provided resources for effective celebrations.

## Impact of Appreciation Days on School Communities

Celebrating school employees can have tangible positive effects on school culture and performance.

### Boosting Morale and Retention

Feeling appreciated reduces burnout and turnover among staff. Recognized employees are more likely to feel committed and satisfied in their roles.

## Enhancing Teamwork and Collaboration

Recognition fosters a sense of community and encourages collaboration among staff members, leading to more cohesive and effective teams.

## Improving Student Outcomes

A motivated and happy staff creates a more positive learning environment, which benefits students academically and socially.

## Lessons Learned from 2015 Celebrations and Best Practices

Reflecting on the 2015 appreciation activities offers insights into what worked well and areas for improvement.

## Best Practices for Future Celebrations

Based on 2015 experiences, successful strategies included:

- Personalization: Tailoring recognition to individual staff members' preferences and contributions.
- Inclusivity: Ensuring all staff roles are acknowledged, from teachers to custodians.
- Community Engagement: Involving students, parents, and local organizations to broaden the appreciation efforts.
- Consistency: Making appreciation a year-round practice rather than a one-time event.
- Creativity: Using innovative ideas to make celebrations memorable and meaningful.

## Conclusion

In 2015, free school employee appreciation days played a vital role in recognizing the tireless efforts of educators and support staff who dedicate themselves daily to student success. These observances foster a culture of gratitude, strengthen school communities, and inspire continued excellence. As schools look to the future, embracing innovative and inclusive appreciation strategies can ensure that every staff member feels valued and motivated to contribute their best.

Recognizing school employees is more than a single day's event; it's an ongoing commitment to acknowledging their essential work. By learning from past celebrations like those of 2015, schools

can craft meaningful recognition programs that uplift their staff and, ultimately, enhance the educational experience for all students.

## Free School Employee Appreciation Days 2015: Recognizing the Unsung Heroes of Education

In 2015, educational communities across the United States once again took time to honor the dedicated professionals who keep schools running smoothly?teachers, administrators, support staff, custodians, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, and countless others. The annual observance, known as Free School Employee Appreciation Days, served as a vital reminder of the vital roles these individuals play in shaping the future of students and fostering a positive school environment. This article explores the origins of these appreciation days, their significance in 2015, how schools celebrated their staff, and the broader impact of recognizing educational employees.

## Understanding the Significance of School Employee Appreciation Days

### The Origins and Evolution of Appreciation Days

School Employee Appreciation Days have roots that trace back to broader efforts to honor workers in various sectors. Recognized as part of National Education Week, these days aim to spotlight the contributions of all personnel involved in education beyond just teachers. The concept gained momentum in the early 2000s as districts recognized that support staff are integral to student success and school operations.

In 2015, the specific days designated for celebrating school employees varied by state and district but generally fell within a week of early March, often aligned with National Teacher Appreciation Week. The emphasis was on acknowledging the often-overlooked roles that support the educational ecosystem.

### Why Recognition Matters

Research in organizational psychology and education highlights that recognition and appreciation significantly boost morale, job satisfaction, and retention among school employees. When staff feel valued, they are more motivated, engaged, and committed to their roles, which directly impacts student experiences and learning outcomes.

Furthermore, appreciation days foster a sense of community within schools. They serve as an opportunity for administrators, students, and parents to express gratitude publicly, strengthening relationships and reinforcing the importance of teamwork in education.

### How Schools Celebrated in 2015

The methods and scale of celebrations varied widely, from simple acknowledgments to elaborate events. Schools recognized their staff through various initiatives designed to make employees feel appreciated and valued.

## Recognition Events and Ceremonies

Many schools organized formal appreciation ceremonies, including:

- Awards Banquets: Staff members received awards recognizing their dedication and specific contributions.
- Morning Announcements: Schools highlighted individual staff achievements during daily announcements.
- Assembly Programs: Student-led or staff-led assemblies celebrated the collective effort of the school community.

## Personalized Appreciation Initiatives

To make the appreciation more personal, schools often engaged in:

- Thank You Cards: Students, parents, and administrators wrote personalized notes of gratitude.
- Staff Lunches and Breakfasts: Providing complimentary meals created opportunities for informal camaraderie.
- Gift Giveaways: Small tokens such as gift cards, flowers, or school-branded merchandise served as tangible signs of appreciation.

## Community Involvement

Some districts extended appreciation beyond the school walls:

- Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs): Organized appreciation events involving parents.
- Local Businesses: Partnered with schools to provide discounts or gifts to staff.
- Media Features: Local newspapers or school newsletters highlighted staff stories and contributions.

## The Broader Impact of Appreciation Days in 2015

Recognizing school employees goes beyond individual acknowledgment; it influences school culture and community perception.

## Boosting Morale and Retention

In 2015, districts reported that appreciation events led to increased morale among staff. Teachers and support staff who felt recognized were more likely to remain in their positions, reducing turnover and maintaining consistency for students.

## Enhancing Student Outcomes

A positive school environment fostered by motivated staff correlates with improved student engagement and achievement. Appreciation days helped reinforce a culture where every role was valued, promoting teamwork and shared responsibility.

## Fostering a Positive Community Image

Celebrating staff publicly contributed to positive community relations. Parents and community members gained a deeper appreciation for the complexities of school operations and the dedication of personnel.

## Challenges and Opportunities in 2015

While many schools successfully celebrated their employees, challenges persisted.

### Limited Resources

Budget constraints meant some schools relied on low-cost or volunteer-driven initiatives. Nonetheless, even modest gestures made a difference.

### Inclusion of All Staff

Ensuring that all categories of employees—custodians, cafeteria workers, bus drivers, paraprofessionals, and administrative staff—received recognition was a priority but sometimes overlooked.

### Expanding Recognition Efforts

The success of 2015's appreciation days inspired districts to develop more inclusive and creative recognition programs, integrating technology (such as social media shout-outs) and involving students more actively.

## Looking Forward: The Legacy of 2015's Appreciation Initiatives

The efforts in 2015 underscored the importance of consistent recognition of school employees. Many districts adopted best practices from that year, incorporating appreciation into annual traditions. The emphasis on gratitude contributed to a shift in school cultures, fostering environments where staff felt genuinely valued.

Moreover, the lessons learned in 2015 helped districts craft more meaningful and sustainable recognition programs, emphasizing genuine appreciation over superficial gestures.

## Conclusion

The observance of free school employee appreciation days in 2015 served as a vital reminder of the pivotal role school staff play in shaping educational experiences. Their dedication, often behind the scenes, forms the backbone of effective schools. Recognizing their contributions not only boosts morale but also cultivates a positive, collaborative, and student-centered school climate. As educational communities continue to evolve, the spirit of appreciation initiated in 2015 remains a cornerstone for fostering motivated, engaged, and valued school employees?ultimately benefiting the students they serve.

**Question** What is the significance of Free School Employee Appreciation Days in 2015? In 2015, Free School Employee Appreciation Days highlighted the importance of recognizing and honoring the hard work of school staff without requiring any cost, promoting gratitude and morale among educators and staff. When was the free school employee appreciation day held in 2015? In 2015, many schools celebrated Employee Appreciation Days throughout the week of May 4th, with specific dates varying by district, often aligning with National Teacher Appreciation Week. How did schools celebrate Employee Appreciation Days in 2015 without spending money? Schools used free or low-cost methods such as student-made cards, thank-you notes, assemblies, social media shout-outs, and volunteer efforts to recognize staff during 2015's Employee Appreciation Days. Were there any national campaigns or events supporting free employee appreciation in schools in 2015? While there was no single nationwide campaign in 2015, many districts participated in local or online initiatives emphasizing appreciation and gratitude for school employees, often sharing ideas on social media.

**Related keywords:** school employee appreciation, teacher appreciation day 2015, staff appreciation week 2015, school staff recognition, educator appreciation events, school employee recognition ideas, teacher appreciation week dates 2015, staff appreciation activities, school district appreciation days, educational staff thank you

**Read the full article online:** [Free school employee appreciation days 2015](#)