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**Engaging Employees in the Give Back Kansas Challenge**

Looking for ways to engage your employees in volunteering and participating in the Give Back Kansas Challenge? We’ve put together some ideas and resources for you to use.

**Communications Tools**

Help spread the word to your employees about the Challenge by promoting it in your company newsletter, intranet, emails, break rooms and other public workspaces. We’ve created sample emails, poster templates and social media posts that you can customize for your employees.

Take photos of the various volunteer efforts or ask employees to submit selfies while volunteering. Post the photos with the hashtag #givebackks and a description of the volunteer work on social media or in your company’s newsletter to show the important work that employees are doing. Spread the word by tagging @kansasvolunteercommission and @volunteerkansas in your posts!

Encourage your CEO or leadership team members to send personalized thank you notes to each employee who participates in the Challenge.

**Competitions/Prizes**

Have fun with the Challenge by holding competitions among work divisions, locations or departments within the state. Ask managers to schedule a volunteer activity for employees to participate in during the Challenge, such as a team building exercise at your local food bank or homeless shelter. Local volunteer centers can also help you find a large group service project. Recognize departments who participate in a volunteer activity and offer prizes for highest participation, number of hours volunteered or a random drawing for a pizza party or jeans day for participating in the Challenge.

You can set a company goal and share weekly results via email, on your intranet or on posters to show the number of hours logged and how your company is doing overall.

In addition, find ways to recognize employees who are volunteering during their off-work time and encourage them to submit their hours to be counted in the Challenge. All volunteer hours count!

**T-shirts/Stickers**

Provide a t-shirt or other company apparel such as a ball cap to employees who sign up for the Challenge and track their hours. Encourage them to wear their apparel while volunteering.

**Recognition Opportunities**

April is National Volunteer Month, so take advantage of this designation to thank and recognize your employees who volunteer for employer-supported projects or on their own personal time!

**Let us know what you're up to!**

We would love to hear about your plans for internal incentives and recognition! We will be spotlighting creative ideas throughout the Challenge on our social media platforms. Please call or send us a message to let us know how you are engaging your employees and we'll highlight your hard work. Contact: Elaine Rodriguez at Kansas Volunteer Commission: erodriguez@ksde.org or 785-368-7436.

