

Student Involvement and Leadership



The Employee Appreciation Program was designed to help communities and their schools to recognize and show appreciation to school employees who make a difference in the lives of their students each day. It results in improved employee morale and inspires them to even greater commitment and more positive attitudes. Efforts spent in recognizing and appreciating school employees pay for themselves at least ten fold. However, a major additional benefit is what it does for the students who become involved in the program. For them, it is filled with opportunities for involvement and leadership development.

1. HELPS TO DEVELOP AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE.

The Employee Appreciation Program teaches students to appreciate others who do things for them. The program provides a video designed to help students understand the importance of the work of school employees. It also provides numerous suggestions of ways to help students express their appreciation to these employees in a way that both helps the student to grow in sensitivity and appreciation and is meaningful to the employee.



2. PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERS OF STUDENT GROUPS TO BECOME INVOLVED IN MEANINGFUL PROJECTS.



Most schools have student groups such as student councils, class officers, clubs and other organizations designed to provide opportunities for public (in the community or within the school) service and leadership development. The Employee Appreciation Program consistently suggests creative ways for these organizations to provide leadership in carrying out activities that express appreciation to people who make a contribution to the students on a daily basis.



3. HELPS TO DEVELOP STUDENT LEADERSHIP.

The Employee Appreciation Program provides opportunities for students to assume responsibility for leading other students in carrying out projects and activities to show appreciation to individuals and groups of school employees. Through planning and organizing activities and directing their implementation, students develop valuable leadership skills. The program calls for each school to select a student appreciation team (some schools may have the student council serve as the appreciation team) to coordinate all appreciation day activities. Members of this team will especially have the chance to develop and hone their leadership skills.

4. PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO DEVELOP SKILLS AND SHOWCASE TALENTS.



The Employee Appreciation Program relies on students to be the primary source of services required to

recognize and express appreciation to school employees. The success of program depends on students to organize and carry out activities. It offers students opportunities to showcase artistic talent through the design and production of signs, posters, banners, cards and other creative materials. It gives them a chance to make announcements or short speeches, to sing, act in skits, write poems or jingles, and deliver messages of appreciation in other creative or dramatic ways. It offers them a challenge to serve as reporters, photographers or videographers to publicize appreciation day activities. It introduces new opportunities for students to try out new roles and assume new responsibilities to carry out a variety of other functions that will help to develop their skills.

5. PROVIDES AN OUTLET FOR CREATIVITY.

While Utrust provides sufficient ideas and suggestions for each employee appreciation day throughout the

year, it consistently challenges students to exercise their creativity by going beyond what is suggested to

personalize a message for a particular employee or employee group. The program provides samples of creative materials and attempts to inspire students to demonstrate their own creativity to write poems, songs, limericks, cheers and slogans; to draw pictures or cartoons; or to find other creative ways of expressing appreciation.

