

You have about 5 weeks to procure your volunteers. I'm going to provide you with three quick tips that have proven to be successful.

#1. Face-to-face is key. Experience has shown that it's more valuable to spend ten minutes talking to a single potential volunteer face-to-face than it is to spend ten minutes presenting to dozens of potential volunteers. Looking someone in the eye, telling them why they are so needed and asking them to help is absolutely key.

#2. Do not focus entirely on parents. Most successful programs do not utilize many parents. If parents had the time or initiative to walk kids to school, they would already be walking their kids to school. Parents are important, and you will be able to get several to commit to volunteering. However, they shouldn't be your only focus.

#3. Verbal commitments are meaningless. Many coordinators have counted on verbal commitments in the past only to be heartbroken when they later contact the person to tell them the location and time of the training. No matter how trustworthy or enthusiastic the person seems, get them to fill out a volunteer form (when they commit) and call them a couple of days later to thank them again.