



MACURH

MIDWEST AFFILIATE OF COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY RESIDENCE HALLS



Ways to Recognize

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AUTHORS

Dan Castro-Estremera

Emily Meyer

Tyler Norman

Special Recognition to Annie Pendl (ADNRHH 2016-2017) & Missouri University of Science & Technology Shamrock NRHH Chapter

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

“55 Ways To Recognize” is a resource that illustrates good ways to recognize leaders in your institutions. These ways can be utilized in an NRHH Chapter or Hall Government body to encourage involvement, acknowledge accomplishments, and show appreciation for all the hard work that happens in and out of the residence halls. The list has been split into 3 overarching categories with 2 sub-categories each: Individual Recognition, Group Recognition, and Miscellaneous others.

Our hope in creating “55 Ways To Recognize” is that these tools we are providing you with will be used to recognize fabulous student leaders in your institution and help you make your halls into homes!

Shoutout to 55 years of MACURH and to many more to come!

CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

- **Individual Recognition** | This category focuses on ways to recognize a quality individual either within your organization (Internal) or outside of your organization (External).
- **Group Recognition** | This category focuses on ways to recognize a group for their efforts or increase their overall morale and buy-in either inside your organization (Internal) or to outside groups or organizations (External)
- **Miscellaneous** | This category is comprised of general methods of recognition that would fit many categories or none at all (General) and ways to promote NRHH’s main method of recognition, OTMs.



INDIVIDUAL RECOGNITION | INTERNAL

- **Traveling Trophy** | Have either a stuffed animal or some other kind of trophy that represents your organization. At the beginning of the year, the president will award it to someone in the chapter who they believe is deserving. The next meeting, that person will hand it off to someone who they believe is deserving, and so on for the rest of the year. They can take a cool picture with the trophy too to share with the rest of the chapter!
- **Of The Chapter Awards** | Each meeting, the executive board would select one member of the chapter that they believe has stepped out of their comfort zone or contributed a lot that meeting to give the award. The award can be anything from a small trophy, candy, or anything you can think of.
- **Top Ten Lists** | One great way to show someone that the group appreciates them is to pass around a list "Top Ten Awesome Things About This Person" and have everyone put something on it. This is a great way to cheer someone up if they're feeling down!
- **Acknowledgements of Quality** | At the end of a meeting, take time for everyone to share something (if they want to) about something cool that their fellow NRHH members have done. Even if it's something small, someone noticing and appreciating that can really make someone's day!
- **Seasonal Awards** | Consider creating some seasonal awards throughout the year to recognize other's achievements. An example being a Good Egg award around Easter time.
- **Service Awards/Pins** | Award either pins, certificates or plaques to those who have dedicated many semesters to your NRHH chapter (4,6, or even 8 semesters). These awards are good to recognize those who have spent a good amount of time of their college career in NRHH.
- **Invitations to Participate in Committees/Taskforces** | Some leaders appreciate a personal invitation to work on certain special groups than any other form of recognition. Let them know you appreciate their talents by inviting them to work on important jobs!
- **Outstanding Leadership and Service Pin** | Recognize those leaders who have given their all to your chapter with the Outstanding Leadership and Service Pin. This is the highest honor an NRHH Chapter can bestow upon a member, and is designed from NACURH to recognize those who have left the biggest impact in your chapter.



- **Superlatives** | Customized awards make everyone feel great! Write awards for all of your group with a humorous take on a trait that they are proud of!

INDIVIDUAL RECOGNITION | EXTERNAL

- **Trophies** | Trophies are the classic recognition item! Trophies can cover a variety of awards and recognition types, and make for a great decoration in the home. Consider inscription plates and plaques as well!
- **Shoulder Tapping** | One way to recognize someone's hard work and dedication is to shoulder tap them for a position in your organization or to apply for membership in NRHH. This is a great way to encourage someone to continue to grow and foster their leadership abilities and to serve those around them.
- **Certificates** | Certificates are a classic way to recognize leaders in and out of the residence halls. Everyone likes a fancy frame that they can hang up on their wall and show the world that they are good at what they do!
- **Buried in Balloons** | Fill up a bunch of balloons and cover their room or office head to toe with them! When they walk in the next day, they'll be sure to enjoy the thought and effort. Consider hiding other awards under, or even in, the balloons as well.
- **Thank You Cards** | Thank you cards are a simple yet effective way to show that you appreciate someone's work, and especially good for professional settings. Whether it is thanking them for allowing you to borrow their resources for an event or something as simple as showing up, a thank you card is a good way to show your appreciation of their contributions.
- **Snaps To** | A good way to recognize someone for something that they have done is submitting a Snaps To for them. These can be especially good at letting someone know that all the cool little things that they do don't go unrecognized.
- **Door Decorations** | Door decorations are a simple yet effective way to recognize many types of accomplishments. You can give someone a door dec if they got an OTM for that month or if they participate in a special committee of their own accord.
- **Fundraiser Coupons** | Got a fundraiser that your organization regularly puts on? Consider complementing your recognition efforts with a coupon! A discount on your goodies will bring a smile to anyone's face.



- **Scholarships** | Scholarships are an excellent way to recognize someone's commitment to the betterment of the halls. Although limited in number, a scholarship can provide someone the resources they need to be successful in their academic pursuits, as well as give them a big boost in their activities.
- **Letters to Important Persons** | If you notice that someone in the halls is doing exceptional work and going above and beyond the call of duty in their role, consider writing a letter to their supervisors about all of the good work that they are doing. This is a good way to show your support for them, and to get knowledge of their good work out there!
- **Community Thank You** | Go around to the hall leader's community and get the members of the community to all sign a thank you card, or meet up and publicly thank the leader for everything they do. Nothing feels better than a lot of your close friends showing how much they care about you!
- **Dinner** | A way to recognize individuals that have gone well beyond the call of duty is to arrange for them to have dinner with important people. It can just be a dinner with the NRHH executive board but you can go as far as to get important members of campus such as a dean or the director of Residential Life.
- **Recognition Pins** | Recognize those individuals who have consistently supported you throughout the year with a pin. These can be specific to your organization, where the Eboard awards 1 or 2 to people who have helped and supported them.



GROUP RECOGNITION | INTERNAL

- **Recognition Chain** | Get a bunch of strips of paper for your chapter to write awesome things that they have noticed that their other chapter members have done. Once they have all finished writing on the strips of paper you can staple them into links and connect them all into a chain
- **Positivity Pig** | Have a piggy bank during chapter activities and slips of paper that people can write cool things that other chapter members have done and put them in the piggy bank. At the end of the activity, read all of the cool things that all of your chapter members have done.
- **Continuing Encouragement** | Towards the beginning of the semester, have each member write one thing that they value or appreciate about each member of their organization/chapter. Collect all of these responses and hand them out one at a time throughout the semester at meetings and events.
- **Chapter Swag** | Nothing increases group morale better than items that have your group's name and logo on it. Popular items are T-shirts or water bottles, but anything you can buy, you can get a customized version for your chapter or organization.
- **Note Cups** | Have each member of your organization write their name on a cup. Throughout the day, each member can write a note to put in someone else's cup when they recognize something small someone else has said or done during the meeting. This is a great way to build community among the group and it shows that everyone notices the little awesome things that their group members do!
- **Buttons!** | Reward the work of your organization with some handmade buttons! Buttons provide a strong sense of unity in the group, especially after achieving a big goal.
- **Love Bombardments** | Have each member of the organization have a piece of paper with their name on it. Pass the pieces of paper around the group and each person writes something they love about the others on their respective pieces of paper.



GROUP RECOGNITION | EXTERNAL

- **Giant Card** | Grab some poster board and make a giant card from scratch for the group you'd like to recognize! Have each member of your chapter sign it and leave a message for the group you'll give the card to. It's sure to put a smile on their faces!
- **Snacks on NRHH** | Who doesn't like snacks? Surprise a group of hardworking people with a plethora of goodies to help them through the tough work that they're doing!
- **Socials with NRHH** | Everybody likes a party! Throw a cool get together with a group who have been doing really awesome stuff to show that your members care about the work that they do!
- **Kits** | Reward your hard-working staffs and hall governments with special kits throughout the year! They can be bags filled with sweets, handwritten notes, and other small goods that will help make their day that much sweeter.
- **Staff Attacks** | Residence Hall Staff goes through a lot of hard times in the year, and they get very stressed. To do something cool, your chapter can have a staff attack where they crash a gathering of staff members or a meeting (with permission) and give them some snacks and bring some games. Everyone needs a break, staff members too!
- **Banners** | Make cool banners to show off cool groups! Have your chapter decorate a big banner that highlights all the worthy things that the group has done/is doing and display it somewhere where it can be seen by many people!
- **Banquet** | Host a formal banquet at the end of the year to recognize the effort your staffs and hall governments have put into their positions. You can recognize the highest honors of your organization and residential life department as well!
- **Funding Support** | Show your appreciation for your staff and hall government's efforts by providing some funding relief for one of their upcoming programs!
- **Program Support** | Recognize the programming efforts of your student leaders by attending en masse their program! Offer to help set up and tear down and even hype up the program while it's going on!



MISCELLANEOUS | GENERAL

- **Thank You** | A simple “thank you” goes a long way! An in-person recognition of achievement goes a long way, especially for those that have made a significant impact on you personally. Some are more receptive to a “thank you” as well, as compared to other methods of recognition.
- **My Favorite Things** | Nothing shows you appreciate a person’s work than a small, thoughtful gift. If you know something that they like, give it to them in person or slip it in their mailbox with a note explaining all the cool stuff that they do!
- **Hugs and High Fives** | Hugs and high fives are a good way to show someone that you think that they’re doing something cool! Let them know what awesome thing they did or just give them a high five for being awesome!
- **Social Media Shout Outs** | Tag their achievements on your organization’s social media accounts! Include a picture of their service, as well as a short description of why they have done a great job.
- **Induction to the FARM** | Consider inducting those who have made a large impact on your organization into MACURH’s FARM!
- **Recognition Day** | A great way to recognize one person or group is to combine several of the other ways in this resource into one day! For instance, get them a certificate and show up with a bunch of snacks to surprise them. The possibilities are endless!

MISCELLANEOUS | OTMs

- **Presentations** | A great way to announce or share your chapter’s OTMs is through presentations at your institution’s RHA and local hall governments. This is a good way to recognize the people who won and encourage other hall leaders in those meetings to write OTMs for the next month!
- **Showing Their Impact** | If you have an outstanding OTM submitted for someone or a group, why not give them a copy to read? Knowing that you won an OTM is one thing, but seeing the exact way that you had an impact on the submitter(s) and the residence halls is a great thing!



- **Bulletin Boards (Standard or Electronic)** | One way to spread awareness of OTMs is to display the monthly winners on some form of bulletin board. You can do it on a normal bulletin board in a high traffic area of the halls. You can also contact your institution's electronic bulletin board servicer (if you have one on campus) to get the word out that way.
- **Newspaper** | Send in a request to have an article or column written on your OTM winners! Folks will be sure to appreciate a published shout out to their accomplishments circulating through the campus community!
- **Campus Radio Station** | Submit a request to your campus radio station to read aloud the OTM winners each month! A little air-time spreads word of the winner's impact across campus, as well as advertises OTMs to interested ears.
- **Table Toppers** | Promote your OTM Winners at your on-campus dining locations by putting out table toppers! People are sure to appreciate their efforts after a nice meal!
- **Pat on the Back** | Have your chapter create a Pat on the Back award for OTMs. If there are several good OTMs in one category, but only one can win, nominate the runner ups for a Pat on the Back. Whenever you select your winner for Pat on the Back, present it to your institution with all your other OTMs!
- **OTM Writing Party** | Host an OTM Writing Party with your chapter, hall governments, and student staffs! OTM Writing Parties provide the perfect opportunity for people to collaborate on OTMs and figure out who's been deserving of recognition during the month.
- **OTM Cup** | Nothing sparks creativity like a little friendly competition. Go to all of the local hall government bodies and offer an "OTM Cup" for the local that submits the most quality OTMs in a particular month. The OTM Cup would be exchanged at the end of the month to the new winner creating constant competition and interest.

