How to Revitalize Your Friends Group

How to make your friends organization a good group with whom to volunteer:

- Make sure there is a welcoming atmosphere at your meetings, activities and events, and that your Friends group is inclusive.

- Have a well-organized structure with smaller committees, such as a membership committee or a media committee, to directly involve more people.

- Recruit more voting members to your board. Encourage your current Friends to promote membership and involvement in the organization to their friends and family.

- Plan for succession in all aspects of Friends administration, book sale coordination, and book store coordination. This is critical to the future health of your organization.

- Recruit people who have the skills you’re looking for, give them tasks that they enjoy doing and encourage them, over time, to become more involved.

- Ask! Library volunteers and patrons are the easiest people to start asking.

- Create job descriptions for committee chairs, so they will understand what their responsibilities are. Use co-chairs to further distribute the workload.

- Volunteers need to know what skills the organization needs and the time commitment required.

- Get people involved in the future planning of the organization.

- Send out reminder emails and make reminder phone calls about upcoming meetings.

- Advertise volunteer opportunities on the library website and in the Friends group’s newsletters.

- Have a committee or board member follow up quickly with new Friends members, so they feel important to the organization. Call them regularly and encourage them to become more involved.
❖ Hold frequent programs, including fundraising events, book sales, literacy, or arts events.

❖ When upcoming events or projects are discussed, promote them as opportunities to get involved.

❖ If you are advocating for funding for your library or to prevent library closures, events can lead to increased interest. Capitalize on this opportunity to recruit new members.

❖ Advertise volunteer opportunities on social media.

❖ Break down time-consuming tasks into manageable jobs.

❖ Have fun! More people will want to be involved if they hear that your group enjoys what they do.