

## WHY I VOLUNTEER

Someone recently told me I was **crazy** to spend so much time volunteering. It made me stop to think about why I do it. I thought back to all the carving shows I have entered or attended, and think of the absolute pleasure I had at them. I also think of the seminars, carving classes and mentors at carving clubs who have taught me so much about carving.

**I realized that the pleasure I have experienced is because of the volunteers before me. The gift of their time is what made opportunities open to me.**

Now I think ahead to the next group of carvers and I feel it is my turn to provide those same opportunities to them. It is their turn to experience the wonder and excitement at these events. It is their turn to feel the joy and be inspired. As a volunteer, I see their smiles, hear their plans for their next carving for the competitions ahead and watch them grow in their abilities. I have felt this excitement during my time carving and it is so wonderful to see the next group of carvers experience the same.

**Whatever your passion is, consider volunteering, to honour those before you, and to support those that will follow in your footsteps.**

As a carver, I just want every fellow volunteer to remember that they are essential to keeping the carving community growing. Whether you run a show, mentor a new carver, or give someone a ride to a carving club, you are the people who create joy for the next group. Your time is a gift to them. We lead by example and we hope that in turn they will be the volunteers who bring the joy to the carvers to come.

**I volunteer to bring happiness to others, but it turns out that I am the one who reaps the reward.**

Lynn Burnett  
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