

How to Show Appreciation to Your Boss

July 2020 | LinkedIn Article by Wendy Berenson



The year was 1958. Pat, a secretary at State Farm Insurance in Deerfield, IL wanted to do something to honor her boss because she felt that all the work he did was rarely recognized or appreciated. She believed that employees sometimes did not understand the challenges their bosses faced or the dedication they put into their work. Her idea took off! By 1979, it had grown so popular that Hallmark issued a Boss's Day card to honor the day. Are you rolling your eyes that it's just another made up holiday? Maybe it does generate some revenue for Hallmark, but the power of a "thank you" is the opportunity to celebrate the value our bosses bring. **Do you show appreciation to your boss, not only on Boss's Day, but every day?**

Here are a few suggestions that can show YOUR boss how much you appreciate them:

- **Break bread together.** Sharing a meal with your boss and teammates provides you the chance to connect, build deeper relationships, and shows appreciation for your boss. Take the opportunity at the mealtime conversation to let your boss know what you think their super hero powers are and the things you most appreciate about them.
- **Support their interests outside of work.** Ask your boss questions that show you are genuinely interested in them as a person. Giving them the opportunity to talk about their interests and passions outside of work can give you an idea of ways to show appreciation. For example, if she's into running, you might give a tangible gift of something that relates to running. If he likes to read, buy a book, and organize a book club with your colleagues.

- **Many people have grown away from the simple gift of a handwritten note or card with a sincere “thank you.”** Bosses receive emails all day long and presenting your appreciation in a personalized handwritten note or card is a powerful way to show appreciation. Recognize your boss for the positive impact they have. Thank them for their guidance and support. Your gesture will be welcomed, appreciated, and remembered! This is my personal favorite! If I were going to hand write a thank you note to the amazing bosses at InnerWill, the note might be worded something like this:

To the amazing bosses that I am fortunate to work with each day – thank you for guiding us with inspiration and wisdom. Thank you for recognizing accomplishments, encouraging continuous learning, always having an open mind and listening ear, and creating a culture where work doesn’t seem like work, but more an opportunity to make a difference. Thank you for the leadership, and the laughter!

What would you write to your boss?

How do you show your appreciation to your boss and team members? Share them in the comments below or drop me a note at wendy.berenson@innerwill.org. I’d love to hear from you!

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