

Volunteering

Volunteering can be a great way to learn new skills, find out about different careers, meet new people and increase your confidence. Put some thought into the volunteer opportunities you pursue, because the right volunteer role can help you prepare for your desired career.

Tips

Volunteering can launch your career, so it's important to treat the experience with the same professionalism as you would a paid job.

Your volunteering is about personal growth, and you'll want to get the most out of it. Ask for feedback throughout the duration of your volunteering, so you can begin to assess your strengths and improve your weaknesses.

[Book an appointment](#) with Career Services to explore what kind of volunteer opportunities will be right for you, and [visit our website](#) to discover volunteer opportunities.

Find the right fit

Take the time to discover your goals and preferences, and let that guide your search. Ask yourself :

- **What is my motivation to do this?**
 - » Is it to make a difference? Explore career paths? Have something that looks good on my resume?
- **What activities interest me?**
 - » Is it bookkeeping? Writing? Caring for animals? Event planning?
- **What focus do I want to be involved in?**
 - » Advocacy? Crisis and emergency support? Mentoring or coaching?
- **What group do I want to help?**
 - » Children and youth? Seniors? Women at risk? People in trouble with the law?
- **What industry do I want to be in?**
 - » STEM? The arts? Education? Law?
- **How much time can I realistically commit?**
- **How far do I want to travel?**
 - » Within my neighborhood? Locally? Nationally? Internationally?
- **How much training would I want to receive?**
- **What qualifications do I have? (skills, education or certifications)**
- **What type of volunteer role would prepare me for my dream career?**

Why volunteer? You can...

- Explore careers, occupations, work environments and possible client groups.
- Gain relevant experience to add to your resume.
- Identify your skills, strengths, interests and personal values.
- Develop new skills and apply skills from school to a real-world setting.
- Grow your professional network and find positive references.

Land the role

- You can use the same strategies to find a volunteer position as you would to find a paid job. Attend networking [events and volunteer fairs](#), look at postings online or directly contact companies to inquire about any volunteer opportunities.
- Analyze the volunteer position to get a strong understanding of the skills and qualifications that are required. Use this information when creating your targeted [resume](#), [cover letter](#) or whatever else they specify to apply with.

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NEED MORE HELP?

Book an appointment with us through [MyCareerHub](#).

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