

GET THE JOB

How to Navigate a Career Fair

What to Bring, What to Say and How to Follow Up

Career fairs can be energizing — and overwhelming. In one room, you'll find dozens of companies, each with recruiters ready to meet job seekers just like you. But making the most of the experience takes more than just showing up.

Whether it's your first time or you've been to a few before, preparing ahead of time can help you stand out, stay confident and leave with leads worth following.

PLAN BEFORE YOU GO

Start by reviewing the list of participating companies. Pick out a few that interest you most and learn a little about what they do. That way, when you approach their booth, you can ask better questions and make a stronger impression.

Print several copies of your résumé and bring them in a folder to keep things neat. You don't need to hand one out at every table, but having them ready shows you came prepared.

Dress professionally — even if the event seems casual — and carry a small notebook or phone to jot down names and notes. A firm handshake, a



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smile and a short intro can go a long way.

MAKE EACH INTERACTION COUNT

When you speak to a recruiter, don't just ask what jobs they have. Start with a friendly introduction, then ask something specific about the company or role:

"I saw your company is expanding into health care. Could you tell me more about that direction?"

Keep it conversational, and if the recruiter seems engaged, ask about next steps or how to apply. If it's a general chat, thank them for their time and move along. You don't need to visit every booth — focus on

quality over quantity.

FOLLOW UP TO STAY TOP OF MIND

After the event, send a short thank-you email to any recruiter you spoke with for more than a few minutes. Mention something you discussed and include your résumé again.

Even if there isn't an imme-

diate opening, staying in touch could lead to future opportunities.

Career fairs are just one step in the process, but when approached with intention, they can be a smart way to build momentum in your search — and make real-world connections that matter.