

GET THE JOB

Exploring Careers With Volunteering

How Giving Time Can Help You Discover Your Next Step

Volunteering isn't just good for your community — it can also help you explore new career paths, build valuable skills and expand your network. Whether you're changing industries, reentering the workforce or figuring out what's next, giving your time can offer unexpected insights and opportunities.

TRY BEFORE YOU COMMIT

If you're curious about a field but not ready to make a full career leap, volunteering is a low-risk way to test the waters. Working with a non-profit in event planning, marketing or data management, for example, can give you hands-on experience similar to paid roles.

These experiences can clarify what kind of work you enjoy — and what you don't. You might discover an interest in logistics, community outreach, training or even fundraising. At the same time, you'll learn how different teams operate and what kind of work environment suits you.

BUILD SKILLS THAT TRANSFER

Many volunteer roles offer chances to sharpen communication, leadership, prob-

lem-solving and teamwork — all skills that employers value, no matter the industry.

If you're between jobs, volunteering shows that you're staying active and engaged. You can list relevant volunteer work on your résumé, especially when it aligns with the type of role you're pursuing.

Some volunteers even tran-

sition into paid roles within the organizations they serve, or they make connections that lead to jobs elsewhere. The key is to treat your volunteer role with the same professionalism you'd bring to a job.

MAKE MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS

Volunteering puts you in

touch with people who care about similar causes — people who may be connected in professional circles you haven't reached yet. These relationships can lead to mentorship, job referrals or new perspectives on your career goals.

Giving back can also boost your confidence. Doing

meaningful work during uncertain times reminds you of your strengths and value, helping you reenter the job market with renewed purpose.

Whether you're seeking direction, experience or a fresh start, volunteering could be the first step toward your next great opportunity.



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