

HOW VOLUNTEERING BENEFITS YOUR CAREER

Volunteers are an integral part of any charitable organization; without them, there would be no charity. Not only can volunteering benefit a wealth of causes, but it can also boost a student's prospects once they head out into the working world.

Develop Transferable Skills

It can be beneficial for students to search for roles in their field and can be one of the best ways to truly gain some hands-on experience in their desired industry. Even skills that may be considered unrelated to an industry can still hold value as life-skills, or transferable skills. For example, volunteering can help you to build leadership skills, especially if you're responsible for a group of people. Leadership is a wonderful skill to have, and it's also transferable to many different job roles. In fact, 51% of recent graduates under 30 who are currently in employment have stated that volunteering helped them to secure their position.

Meet New People

Volunteering can be an excellent way to get your foot in the door and meet new people. Though networking may not necessarily be the first thing that comes to mind when people decide to work for a cause, it is an amazing perk. Organizations, whether at home or abroad, can bring together people from all walks of life. No matter what your background or experience, you're all in one place to achieve a shared goal; better the lives of those that the charities support. You'll be able to build relationships with everyone there, and you may even find that this networking could impact your future career.

Work Opportunities in the Future

Among everything else that volunteering can offer, it's an amazing way to prepare for work opportunities in the future. Having real-life experience can enhance a student's education outside of the classroom. Stating on a resume that they've volunteered can give any future employers an insight into the kind of person a student is away from work. In some respects, volunteer work experience can be just as important to an employer as qualifications. Many employers are interested in how well a person will fit in with the team at work personality wise, not just whether they are qualified for the job

Virtual Internship Resources:

1. 25 Volunteer Jobs to Do From Home: operationwarm.org
2. Paper-airplanes.org invites volunteers to provide online tutoring to "bridge gaps in language, higher education, and professional skills training for conflict-affected individuals"
3. [Dosomething.org's](http://Dosomething.org) nine places to volunteer online and make a real impact
4. Upchieve: Online tutoring for disadvantaged youth
5. Assist in digitizing, transcribing and otherwise contributing to nonprofit organizations
 - a. Amnesty Decoders
 - b. Digital Smithsonian Museum