

Volunteering is a great way to help others and give back to your community, but it can also be an excellent way to begin building your career. Volunteering can help you learn new skills, build a professional network, and gain knowledge about the organizations you are working for.

Reasons to Volunteer

- You will learn new and transferable skills.
- You can explore potential career fields.
- You can gain work experience in a career field you are interested in.
- You can make new contacts, build a professional network and a list of potential references.
- You will learn information about a specific cause.
- It can help fill in the blanks on your resume if you have taken time off work or don't have a lot of work experience.
- It shows you are self-motivated and hard-working.
- You will gain self-confidence.

Tips for Volunteering

- Research causes that are important to you to find an opportunity you will be interested in.
- Consider the skills you have to offer and the skills you would like to learn.
- Choose a schedule that works for you—don't overcommit yourself.
- Request an interview before you accept a volunteer position. Be prepared to discuss your interests and qualifications, as well as ask any questions you may have about the organization or the work you would be doing.
- Treat volunteer work like a job—show up on time, dress appropriately, complete assignments as requested, and communicate with your volunteer coordinator.

Where to Find Volunteer Opportunities

- 1) Hands On Central Ohio—<https://www.volunteercentralohio.org>
- 2) United Way of Central Ohio—<https://liveunitedcentralohio.org/take-action/volunteer>
- 3) Volunteer Match—<https://www.volunteermatch.org/>