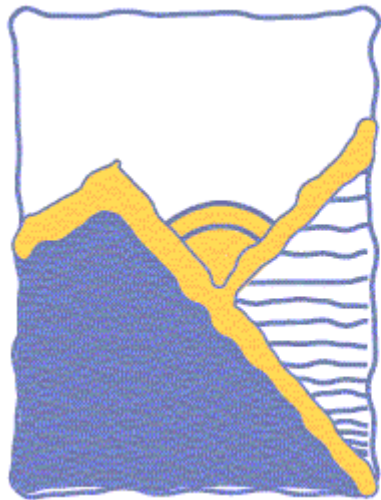


THE BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERING



VOLUNTEER
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YUKON

Why Volunteering?

- To build your resume
- To learn something new
- To explore a career
- Find what is right for you!
- Why do volunteering?

Build your Resume

- Volunteer work as "Work Experience" or "Business Experience"
 - Just because you don't get paid doesn't make the work any less relevant or important.
- Give yourself relevant titles for your volunteer work.
 - you are performing important tasks and your position is more than the label "volunteer."
 - " If you help raise money, then you are a "Fundraiser."
 - If you are responsible for maintaining a membership list and activities, then you are a "Membership Coordinator."

Build your Resume

- List the duties you perform.
 - Make the descriptions accurate and professional.
 - "Responsible for exercising the special-needs dogs" is much more descriptive than "dog walker."
 - Todd writes articles for a local environmental newsletter and lists his duties as "Part-time writer of environmental articles for a monthly newsletter."
 - Responsible for conducting online research, conducting telephone and personal interviews, and fact checking."
- Explain any leadership qualities or skills you have acquired while performing your volunteer work.
 - Did you have to learn a new skill, such as CPR or wildlife handling?
 - Do you train other people?
 - Are you responsible for coordinating others' activities?
 - Don't overstate what you did, but make sure to give yourself credit for the talents and skills you have gained.

Learn Something New

- Volunteering is the perfect vehicle to discover something you are really good at and develop a new skill:
 - It is never too late to learn new skills and no reason why you should stop adding to your knowledge just because you are in employment or have finished education.
 - Planning and implementing a major fundraising event can develop goal setting, planning and budgeting skills.
 - Supervising and training other volunteers helps to develop supervisory and training skills.

Learn Something New

- Volunteering is the perfect vehicle to discover something you are really good at and develop a new skill.
 - These are examples of skills that can enhance a career but you don't have to develop skills with the intention of facilitating your career.
 - Painting a mural or making banners for International Volunteer Day – to celebrate the wonderful and priceless work that volunteers do – could gently push you to discover graphics and art talents.
 - Explore your love for music and learn to DJ (disc jockey) so you can offer your newfound panache to local youth club discos. The possibilities are many.

Explore a career

- Volunteering is a marvelous way to explore possible career options.
 - This allows you to discover whether or not you like the work or are good at it and if you discover it's not for you.
- For new graduates, your volunteer work will demonstrate that you have practical skills, can function in a work environment, and care about your community.
- For those who are tired of their present job, volunteering is a welcome change of pace. It allows you to test yourself in new situations and to see what truly interests you.

Explore a career

- Volunteering is only career exploration if you consciously select assignments that place you in the type of setting you want to learn about;
 - let you work side by side with professionals you can observe and who can answer questions you may have about their career;
 - ask for as much training as you can get;
 - ask to be "promoted" to tasks of greater challenge so that you can truly use the volunteer experience to document your accomplishments to a prospective employer.

Find What is Right for You!

- You can choose what really interests you and who (or what) is most deserving on your time:
 - If you like animals, help out at a local animal shelter
 - If you think you may be interested in politics, volunteering to help with a campaign is a great way to find out how things work on the side
 - If you have a friend or relative who has or had a medical problem, you might be inspired to donate your time

Why do volunteering?

- Volunteering can give you better chance of getting paid work, by helping you to:
 - Learn new skills
 - Practise the skills you have
 - Become more confident
 - Put volunteering on you resume
 - Show employers you can keep regular hours and handle commitment
 - Meet people who can help you find paid work
 - Get references