

## Volunteerism and Community Involvement

There are many rewards that come with volunteering and getting involved with your school's community. From the joy of helping others to improving your qualities as a student and prospective employee you'll find many opportunities to choose from.

First you need to decide what type of service you want to participate in and where. You may wish to focus on something related to your education or the career path you are pursuing. Perhaps you have a certain passion or hobby separate from your career goals for which you would like to volunteer. Or you may want to become involved strictly from an altruistic stand point and seek ways to help those in need. It all starts with the community where you reside and discovering what is available.

### Helping Others

Volunteer opportunities are abundant when it comes to helping others in your community. Nursing homes and hospitals will certainly have positions available to assist the sick and disabled. Big Brother and Big Sister [programs](http://www.bbbs.org/site/c.diJKKYPLJvH/b.1539751/k.BDB6/Home.htm) (<http://www.bbbs.org/site/c.diJKKYPLJvH/b.1539751/k.BDB6/Home.htm>) are great ways to help children. You can also volunteer to work with [homeless people](http://www.nationalhomeless.org/want_to_help/index.html), ([http://www.nationalhomeless.org/want\\_to\\_help/index.html](http://www.nationalhomeless.org/want_to_help/index.html)) seniors, (<http://www.dontalmostgive.org/Volunteer/Seniors.asp>) and Veterans. (<http://www.volunteer.va.gov/>).

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Search for volunteer opportunities by category and opportunity, nationwide or in your area.

<http://www.getinvolved.gov/>

<http://www.volunteermatch.org/>

<http://www.serve.gov/>

<http://www.voa.org/>

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### Volunteering in Your Industry

Besides the good feeling you will have in helping others, you may also [benefit yourself](http://trainingpd.suite101.com/article.cfm/benefits_of_volunteering) ([http://trainingpd.suite101.com/article.cfm/benefits\\_of\\_volunteering](http://trainingpd.suite101.com/article.cfm/benefits_of_volunteering)) by enhancing your resume, learning about your community, picking up a new skill or two, and possibly opening new doors to a future career. Many businesses take on volunteers to help them

fulfill any number of job functions. It's a great tradeoff as you will gain experience and have the chance to expand your network of contacts. These types of opportunities can be found in fields such as [finance](http://www.fsvc.org/), [education](http://www.educationforfree.org/volunteerteachers.html) [marketing](http://www.educationforfree.org/volunteerteachers.html), accounting, and practically any [industry](http://www.smartvolunteer.org/?gclid=CKHAjJrNI5wCFdVL5QodUzNWdQ).

Hobbies: For recreation or sharing with others

Volunteering also gives you the chance to further explore a hobby of yours or find new ones. Share your experience in [sports](http://www.in-the-arena.org/default.aspx), [at a theatre](http://www.alliancetheatre.org/work.aspx?id=112), [a museum](http://hobby.meetup.com/), or any number of [groups](http://hobby.meetup.com/) where people with similar passions convene

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Are you an animal lover? If so there are ways you can help whether it is stray pets, farm animals, or wild life.

<http://worldanimalfoundation.homestead.com/Volunteer.html>

<http://www.emergencyanimalrescue.org/>

[http://www.wellpetusa.org/index.php?option=com\\_volunteer](http://www.wellpetusa.org/index.php?option=com_volunteer)

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Volunteering Abroad

Take your passion for volunteering overseas. Organizations like the [Peace Corps](http://www.peacecorps.gov/) [and Red Cross](http://www.ifrc.org/who/movement.asp?navid=03_08&gclid=CMLlm8jamZwCFeFM5QodMjq1eA) [have been helping less fortunate people suffering from poverty, famine, disease and displacement for years. Through your participation you can make a difference by educating and implementing systems that will enhance the livelihood of peoples from all over the world.](http://www.ifrc.org/who/movement.asp?navid=03_08&gclid=CMLlm8jamZwCFeFM5QodMjq1eA)

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This is a link to a video from the Peace Corps

[http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6qeqi\\_peace-corps-redefine-your-world-psa\\_shortfilms?from=rss](http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6qeqi_peace-corps-redefine-your-world-psa_shortfilms?from=rss)

