



Simple Tips for Volunteers

Practical advice to help you prepare for and make the most of your volunteer journey.

Volunteering should be a rewarding and meaningful experience for everyone. Starting off on the right foot is key to a positive journey. This guide answers some common questions, shares best practices, and offers essential tips for volunteering success.

Know your motivations:

Identify what you're passionate about and look for opportunities that align with those interests. When you care deeply about the area where you're volunteering, your experience is more likely to be positive and rewarding.

Refine your search:

When seeking a volunteer opportunity, filter by category or hours to help find a role that best suits your interests and your availability. Considering the volunteering location and how you'll get there is also important for finding the right match.

Prepare for questions:

Organisations often have volunteer application processes to ensure the right fit. Expect forms or interviews - this benefits you and the organisation, as well as the people it serves.

Be honest:

Be clear about the tasks you're interested in, your skills, and how much time you can commit. Don't hesitate to say "no" if an opportunity doesn't feel right for you. Open communication is key to a successful and enjoyable experience.

Consider your strengths:

You might choose to volunteer in a way that complements your work skills or hobbies. Alternatively, consider volunteering as a chance to try something new. With the right attitude, you can learn on the job and have fun doing it.

Combine your goals:

Seek opportunities that align with your personal objectives. For instance, if you want to stay active, choose roles like park clean-ups. If you've been wanting to improve your cooking skills, consider volunteering at a community centre that offers cooking lessons.

Start small:

If you're unsure, begin with short-term or one-off volunteer opportunities. This approach lets you test the waters without overcommitting or feeling overwhelmed.

Bring a friend:

Many organisations welcome pairs or small groups of volunteers. Teaming up with someone you know is fun, and can make you feel more comfortable and confident in a new environment.

Explore online opportunities:

Virtual volunteering lets you contribute from the comfort of your own home. It's a great option if you have limited time, transport constraints, or simply enjoy working with computers.

Try family volunteering:

Time-poor? Volunteering as a family fosters closeness and teaches younger members the value of giving back. It also lets busy families spend time together while doing something meaningful.

Share your enthusiasm:

While some roles require technical skills, most only need a positive attitude, enthusiasm, and a genuine desire to help. Your energy and passion can make a big difference!