

VOLUNTEER U

ROCKIN'

THAT

*Dream  
Volunteer  
Role*

You've got the skills,  
now it's time to work it.



Chances are, you've volunteered at different places and filled various roles. If you're like us, you showed up and went to work wherever they put you.

If you're also like us, you may have wished you could've done a little bit more.

Not that helping in any way isn't fulfilling. Stuffing mailers, stacking chairs, making calls- no job should be too big or too small for a volunteer with their heart in the right place.

But sometimes we're left wondering if there wasn't some way we could use our skills, education, or experience to help MORE.

Volunteering should be an enriching experience for both the volunteer and the organization. If you're not getting the most out of the activity, it may be time to break-up with your current volunteer role.

The problem may be that you just haven't found your volunteering sweet spot yet.

The question you should be asking yourself is, "How can I find a volunteer position that uses my skills, talents, interests, and passions to make the world a better place?"

We have some easy (and practical) tips to help you find that perfect match without having to date a lot of dead-end volunteer roles.

This resource is going to help you connect with an organization and get the most out of your volunteer experience.

At Volunteer U, we help volunteers like you become a part of great teams.

How? By introducing you to the concept of ambassadorship. We'll help you identify, connect, and buy-into your dream organization. We've taken hundreds of volunteers through this process and seen impressive turnarounds.

When you are crazy about the organization you volunteer for and are fully engaged in the work you are doing for them, you will see a drastic change in your experience.

We'll walk you through the process in this guide.

## STEP #1 - KNOW WHAT YOU WANT

It's important to know what you want going into the volunteer experience. Sure, it's okay to test a couple of different roles if you're not sure what you want yet. However, when it comes down to finding that perfect volunteer position, you need to know what you're looking for.

So, what should you be on your "dream list"?

First, you should do a little research on the organization. Do they love what you love? Are they passionate about the same things you are? Do your values match up? Go into this process the same way you would look at a potential first date. It's essential that you both agree about the fundamental things; otherwise, this just isn't going to work.

When you are on the same page as an organization, it doesn't matter what task you are doing. You feel energized because you are helping a cause you care about, you are doing something to change your world.

Second, you need to set your expectations for your volunteer experience. Why are you volunteering? Is it to meet new people? Is it because you feel grateful and want to give back? Is it to learn new skills or get exposure? Is it because you want to help right a wrong or put an end to injustice? Knowing your "why" will help you get the most out of your service and connect with an organization who has the same goals that you do.

# WHAT DO I WANT?




Grab a pen and let's get to work. Write a list of what you're looking for in your dream volunteer role.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal red ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

# STEP #2 - KNOW WHAT YOU DON'T WANT

This step may be just as critical as knowing what you want. Once you have an idea of what you want, you'll know what type of work won't fit. Don't get lulled into doing volunteer roles for the wrong motives. You should never feel guilt or pressured into serving somewhere. Volunteering is good. Volunteering for the wrong reasons is still technically a good thing, but it won't produce the same outcomes as helping because you want to. Most of the time volunteering out of negative motives will end up in irritation and even burnout.

 Grab a pen and let's get to work. Write a list of what you're NOT looking for in your dream volunteer role.

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# STEP #3 - TELL THEM ABOUT YOUR SKILLS

If you’re already volunteering at an organization you love, there’s no need to go searching for something else. However, you may not be utilizing your skills to the best of your abilities. Most organizational leaders aren't mind readers. If you haven't told them what you're good at, they will have no idea how to best use your skills.

Here's a quick checklist to help you figure out your dream position:

- What are you good at?

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- What do you enjoy doing?

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- What do you care a lot about?

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- What are your hobbies?

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- Do you have any technical skills?

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Once you know what you want (and what you don't want) in your dream volunteer position, you're ready to get out there and change the world!



## WHAT'S NEXT?

Finding the perfect volunteer role is not an easy task. It takes quite a bit of trial and error, trying new things, and being open to different experiences.

But the rewards are endless.

You have important things to do. Being in a volunteer role that doesn't use you to your full advantage should never hold you back. In fact, our goal at Volunteer U is for you to connect with an organization that you love so you can help them accomplish those big dreams!

SCHEDULE A WORKSHOP OR TALK TO A CONSULTANT  
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