Finding the Perfect Volunteering Role

You've decided you'd like to do some volunteering – but how do you go about finding the perfect volunteering role? Before jumping on to the internet to go looking, it's worth thinking about what your motivations and interests are and how much time you want to commit. This will help you to find a role that meets your needs. Many volunteering sites allow you to search by different categories, including searching via key word.

Below are some questions worth thinking about before you begin looking for your perfect role:

Commitment

How much time can you commit?

- ☐ Micro volunteering (less than 3 hours)
- ☐ Event volunteering (one off event that may last over several days)
- ☐ Short term (less than six months)
- ☐ Long term (more than six months/ongoing)

What days and times are you available?

- ☐ Weekdays
- ☐ Weekends only
- ☐ Mornings
- ☐ Afternoons

Where would you like to volunteer?

- ☐ Within a few km from home
- ☐ Somewhere accessible by public transport
- ☐ Anywhere
- ☐ Virtually (online from any location)

Do you have specific suitability requests?

I am seeking a position suitable for:

- ☐ Volunteer with mutual obligation requirements
- ☐ A group of 10 or more
- ☐ Young volunteer (aged 14 – 18)
- ☐ Family with children
- ☐ Online/remote volunteer
- ☐ Seeking work experience
- ☐ Travelling volunteer
- ☐ Volunteering on a VISA

What kind of organisation would you like to volunteer with?

☐ Animal Welfare
☐ Arts and Culture
☐ Community Services
☐ Disability Services
☐ Disaster Relief
☐ Drug & Alcohol Services
☐ Education and Training
☐ Emergency Response
☐ Environment & Conservation
☐ Family Services
☐ Health
☐ Homelessness Services
☐ Indigenous Australians
☐ Mentoring & Advocacy
☐ Migrant Services
☐ Museums and Heritage
☐ Recreation
☐ Seniors & Aged Care
☐ Sport
☐ Veterans Services
☐ Young People

What type of volunteering role are you interested in?

☐ Accounting & Finance
☐ Administration & Office Management
☐ Arts, Craft & Photography
☐ Childcare
☐ Companionship & Social Support
☐ Counselling & Help Line
☐ Disability Support
☐ Driving & Transportation
☐ Education & Training
☐ Food Preparation & Service
☐ Fundraising & Events
☐ Garden Maintenance
☐ Governance, Boards & Committees
☐ IT & Web Development
☐ Library Services
☐ Marketing, Media & Communications
☐ Mediation & Advocacy

☐ Music & Entertainment
☐ Research, Policy & Analysis
☐ Retail & Sales
☐ Safety & Emergency Services
☐ Seniors & Aged Care
☐ Sport & Physical Activity
☐ Tour Guides, Information & Heritage
☐ Trades & Maintenance
☐ Translating & Interpreting
☐ Tutoring & Coaching
☐ Working with Animals
☐ Writing & Editing

Do you have skills you want to bring to your volunteering role?

You may have skills or qualifications that you would like to contribute as a volunteer. Consider how these skills might be useful for an organisation and how you could add value to an organisation by volunteering your skills.

Are there skills you wish to gain from your volunteering role?

You may be interested in volunteering to gain new skills. Consider what skills you would like to build and how this might be achieved through different roles. Be sure to have a conversation with the organisation about your desire to build new skills so they can meet this motivation, or let you know if they won't be able to upskill you.

Searching for available roles

By considering the above, you should now have a much better idea about what sort of volunteering role will suit your motivations, your needs and your availability. You are now ready to start searching for a role through your State or Territory Peak Body for Volunteering, local Volunteering Support Service, GoVolunteer or SEEK Volunteer.

Finding more information

Sometimes it can be worth giving an organisation a call before applying for a role to find out more information. Similarly, some organisations might hold general information sessions for prospective volunteers so they can ask questions and gain a deeper understanding of the organisation and role requirements before applying. Volunteering is a two-way relationship and it is important you feel confident that both the organisation and role are a good fit for you. The best way to determine this is to ask!