Volunteering during the pandemic

If you are feeling down about landing a volunteer position during a time when everything is uncertain, don’t worry about it! You will be surprised to find out that a lot of companies and not-for-profit organizations are still hiring volunteers (some industries more than others) to help them during these times. It gets even better! Some places give you the option to volunteer not only in person but also virtually if you don’t feel like driving down to your workplace.

In this article, we will explore some tips that you should be aware of if you want to volunteer during the pandemic.

1. In-person volunteering is still possible during COVID-19

While you may think that there are only some virtual opportunities here and there. Think again! Even with all the new workplace restrictions, such as wearing masks and staying 6-feet apart, practicing physical distancing and
sanitizing equipment, organizations are still in need of volunteer help. Some places do a very good job at providing their volunteers with a safe space where they can contribute their time and effort, however, others not so much. Make sure that if you are volunteering at an event, to check whether the organizers are following the standards of health and safety, before deciding to work there.

2. You can easily find volunteer opportunities

In another article on the VNP website, we have listed a number of websites you can check out if you live in Canada and are in need of a volunteer opportunity. You will be surprised to find out that there are hundreds of positions available for in-person and virtual volunteering. Here is a list of those websites according to the area that you live in.

- If you live in Toronto, make sure to check out Volunteer Toronto
- If you live in Mississauga, Brampton, or Caledon, make sure to check out Volunteer MBC
- If you live in Vancouver, make sure to check out iVolunteer
● If you live in Saskatchewan, make sure to check out Volunteer Connector

● If you live in London, make sure to check out the Pillar Nonprofit Network

3. Volunteer somewhere close by

If you are taking the time to volunteer somewhere, make sure to pick a location nearby so that you can directly make an impact in your own community. Therefore, if you live in Scarborough, make sure you choose a company or a small business located in Scarborough to make a difference in its beautiful community. Knowing that will make you more motivated during your time volunteering.

4. Work on tasks that you enjoy

Organizations that offer volunteer opportunities have a ton of activities, tasks and needs for everyone to get to do what they most enjoy doing. While you may have to compromise on some of the activities, if you outright do not want to do something, let the supervisor or organizer know. Putting effort towards
things you do not enjoy may have a counterproductive effect and make you rethink about volunteering next time. Therefore, choose tasks you enjoy and stay motivated!

5. Volunteer With A Friend

There is nothing that makes work more fun than volunteering with a friend. We know that going into the place for the first time and asking how you can make yourself useful can seem a bit intimidating at first. While a lot of workplaces are very good at welcoming volunteers and making them feel as part of the family, having a friend by your side can make the experience way more enjoyable. You can find yourself working on tasks that you wouldn't have considered on your own and having fun while you are at it.

6. Find what inspires you

If you are uncertain about where to volunteer and for what position, make sure to do some self-analyzing and ask yourself what motivates you and what you are passionate about. You may have owned a dog in the past, so you choose
to volunteer at the animal shelter, or you may have had a childhood friend from the fostering system, and you choose to contribute your efforts there. Think about your experiences and where would you like to truly make a change. Find where you would be most happy contributing your free time and efforts and do just that. Volunteering does not have to feel like heavy work, once you find something that you really care about.

7. Lots of virtual opportunities

As mentioned earlier, with the world transitioning to an online environment, there are now tons of virtual volunteer opportunities for you to explore. If you are interested in finding one, make sure to explore the links provided above and select “Virtual Opportunities” or “Virtual opening” when filtering the search results. If you want to minimize the time you spent on travelling, then virtual volunteer opportunities may be perfect for you.