



SPOTLIGHT

Where Will Your Path Lead This Summer?



The idea of volunteer vacations is not a new one. We've also heard them called "work vacations" or "voluntourism" or even "service-learning travel" — but whatever the name, the concept of building short-term volunteer service into vacation time is one that has kept people interested.

If you're looking to make your down time more meaningful, it will require some research (maybe even a soul search), but with due diligence and a clear idea of your budget, ample opportunity exists to find the right place and project for you.



You could follow the lead of thousands of college students who volunteered with [Habitat for Humanity](#) over spring break this year; or "get out, and give back" with the [American](#)

RESOURCES

Make a Difference in Your Down Time

Whether your free time is spent in your own town, across the country, or across the sea, a volunteer vacation can be a fulfilling way to improve lives and communities while also allowing you to de-stress, broaden your experience, and leave with a sense of accomplishment. The following resources will help you find a way to serve, learn, and relax all in one trip.



Lending Library

- [Volunteer Vacations: Short-Term Adventures That Will Benefit You and Others](#)
- [Mapping Your Volunteer Vacation](#)
- [Alternatives to the Peace Corps: A Guide of Global Volunteer Opportunities](#)
- [The Back Door Guide to Short-Term Job Adventures: Internships, Summer Jobs, Seasonal Work, Volunteer Vacations, and Transitions Abroad](#)
- [How to Live Your Dream of Volunteering Overseas](#)
- [Step Back from the Baggage Claim: Change the World, Start at the Airport](#)

Online Resources

- [Voluntourism Fact Sheet](#)
- [Developing a Voluntourism](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gulf Coast Oil Spill: Volunteer Response

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteer positions related to the Gulf Coast oil spill, refer to information at the [Deepwater Horizon Response](#) website; the site also includes news updates, area plans, and answers to frequently asked questions.

New Service-Learning Game: InterroBang

InterroBang is a socially-networked, problem-solving, service-learning game in which K-12 students complete missions in the real world — an extension of the Smithsonian's online conference "Problem Solving with Smithsonian Experts." InterroBang players and experts award points for completed missions based on a problem-solving rubric. Supported by Microsoft and with input from the [National Service-Learning Clearinghouse](#). Check it out at [www.playInterroBang.com](#).



Art Grant Competition for Youth



[Hiking Society](#) in parks across the U. S.; or join the [Sierra Club](#) in a variety of outdoor service trips. For family volunteer enthusiasts, [Idealist.org](#) can help you figure out what might be best for your crew. The international traveler can check out [Global Volunteers](#) as a start, and the dollar-conscious may learn from this USA Today article called [How to Find a Volunteer Vacation on a Budget](#).

Volunteer vacationing is one great way to build service into your life: to learn about the host community, to create lasting friendships, to experience a place from a new perspective, and to contribute your skills and energy to improving lives and outdoor spaces.

[Program](#)

- [Voluntourism in Your Community](#)
- [Hosting a Voluntourist: Lessons Learned](#)

Other Resources

- [Idealist.org International Volunteerism Resource Center \(IVRC\)](#)
- [VolunTourism.org](#)

The Young Hands Together for Diversity International Art Competition is part of a worldwide youth education initiative on biodiversity to provide children and young people with useful information and help them participate in protecting, preserving, and improving biodiversity in their communities. The theme for the competition is "biodiversity" and what it means to young people around the world. Age categories are 6-10 years, 11-15 years, and 16-20 years. *Competition closes on June 15, 2010*, so there's still time! More here: greenwave.cbd.int/en/node/4661

Technology Corner

Simple tech tip:

In Firefox or Internet Explorer, click the "View" menu item and then select "Toolbars" to customize or hide the toolbars that show in your browser window.

NEW! Online Course



[Advanced VISTA Volunteer Management](#)

This course aims to help VISTA leaders be more effective in their volunteer leadership role. Click the link to read more and to access the course.

Discussion Lists

Looking for an easy way to exchange ideas and resources about a common theme in national service? [Subscribe to one of our many topical e-mail discussion forums](#) and connect with others who share your interest!

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