

Incorporating Your Volunteering Experience Into Your Resume, Job Search and Interview

Podcast script

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Volunteering can offer the following benefits:

First, volunteering may help you develop new skills, while keeping your established skills current. A volunteer position may assist you in developing leadership, management, communication, accounting, computer and budgeting skills. With a little research, you can probably find a position that will give you the skills you want to advance.

Next, the network you build through volunteering may help you find paid employment. Being in the right place at the right time may give you the advantage you need for finding a job.

In some volunteer positions, you may be able to attend trainings and conferences. These are additional opportunities in which you can further your skills.

Translate your volunteer service to the work force through your resume, job searches and interviews.

Because military families move frequently, spouses often have gaps in their resume. These gaps in your resume can be addressed by volunteer experiences. For example, you might say that you organized a fundraising event to raise \$1,000 for teens on your installation to attend a leadership training conference. This volunteer experience emphasizes your leadership, management and communication skills. Talk to a certified Spouse Education and Career Opportunities Career Counselor at 800-342-9647 to assist you with your resume. You can also contact your installation's employment assistance program officer for support.

Make the most of your personal connections to search for a job. A friend or someone you've met through your volunteer work may know of a suitable paid position. Job search sites dedicated to military spouses, such as Military Spouse Employment Partnership Career Portal and Department of Labor Career One Stop Centers are good resources. Some organizations may allow you to volunteer to get experience in the business.

Volunteer positions provide opportunities to interact with others, which can boost your confidence and polish your interpersonal skills. Be proud of your volunteer contributions and accomplishments and how they can translate to business success.

For more information about volunteering and employment, visit the SECO page of Military OneSource at www.militaryonesource.com/SECO or call 800-342-9647. If you are overseas, call 800-342-9647 or 703-253-7599.

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For more information, visit Military OneSource at <http://www.militaryonesource.mil>, an official Department of Defense website.