

# Community Service Tips



## Why Volunteer?

1. Give back to your community
2. Learn the value of helping others
3. Develop leadership skills
4. Learn how to work with a diverse group of people
5. Develop problem-solving skills
6. Receive recognition from your community, perhaps in college scholarships
7. Gain a sense of responsibility for your community
8. Gain work experience to add to your resume
9. Meet new people
10. Gain self-esteem
11. Develop networking skills
12. Complete a community service

### What to Ask Yourself When Looking to Volunteer:

- What time commitment can I make?
- Can I find transportation?
- Would this interest me?
- Can I use skills I already have?
- Will I learn from this opportunity?
- Can this lead to paid employment?
- Do I have friends or family who've volunteered so I can seek advice?
- Do I know a classmate, family friend, or mentor who could give me a volunteer opportunity?

### After Finding a Volunteer Opportunity:

- Be prepared for an interview and/or an application process
- Have a resume prepared
- Don't overcommit yourself to activities
- Try to volunteer with friends or family

### Where to Volunteer:

The list of places to volunteer is **endless**. You can find a community service project that fits your interests and schedule.

Volunteer locations include (but are not limited to):

- Hospitals, libraries, churches, day care centers, schools, elderly homes, soup kitchens, museums, prisons, parks, youth organizations, etc.
- Ask the **PIC Counselor** at your Boston Public High School, [www.bostonpic.org](http://www.bostonpic.org)
- Contact the **Mayor's Youthline** for a list of options tailored to your individual needs at 617-635-2240, [youthline@cityofboston.gov](mailto:youthline@cityofboston.gov)

### While Volunteering:

- Dress appropriately for the position
- Be enthusiastic, take pride in what you're doing
- Keep your appointments. If you can't make it, find a replacement or call at least 24 hours in advance.

## Helpful Websites

Boston Cares  
Cradles to Crayons  
The Food Project  
Greater Boston Food Bank  
Horizons for Homeless Children  
Samaritans  
United Way

[www.bostoncares.org](http://www.bostoncares.org)  
[www.cradlestocrayons.org](http://www.cradlestocrayons.org)  
[www.thefoodproject.org](http://www.thefoodproject.org)  
[www.gbfb.org](http://www.gbfb.org)  
[www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org](http://www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org)  
[www.samaritanshope.org](http://www.samaritanshope.org)  
[www.supportunitedway.org](http://www.supportunitedway.org)