

## Volunteer Tips: College Students

1. Ask around: Word of mouth is the best way to learn about opportunities. If you find an organization that interests you, contact them and get information on what you can do to volunteer.
2. Use volunteer time as an opportunity to explore career options, and gain training and professional development. Volunteering is a great way to experience first-hand what a potential position in a particular career field could be like.
3. Commit to a project, but don't over-commit yourself. Make sure you come through as a dependable volunteer; organizations can serve as great references for potential full-time employers.
4. Work with Student Services or the Division of Student Life to find opportunities on campus. There are always events happening that need volunteers and can be a way to get involved.
5. Consider Alternative Spring Break. Volunteer in a place with special needs, such as an area with a recent disaster, or in some part of the country you've never been. Help out while learning about the local economy, local needs, and cultural differences.
6. Meet new people! Volunteering provides a great atmosphere to meet people with similar interests.
7. Not sure where to start? There is no need to wait to be asked. The website [www.volunteercenterjwc.org](http://www.volunteercenterjwc.org) will help you locate opportunities in our area, as well as your area of interest. Contact the United Way Volunteer Center to learn more about opportunities and ways to get involved.
8. Ask your friends to help. Studies show that the number 1 reason that people volunteer is because they were asked. So go ask someone to volunteer with you and make a difference together.
9. Virtual Volunteering- yes, there is such a thing. If you have computer access and the necessary skills, some organizations now offer the opportunity to do volunteer work over the computer. This can be a great way to get started in volunteering, and can also provide a way to volunteer at home on a flexible schedule.
10. Look into volunteering events in order to get a taste of volunteering if you're not sure about committing right away. Make a Difference Day, Summer of the Arts, FRY fest and many other one-day events are scheduled throughout the year.
11. Utilize your *skills*. Whatever you are good at – computers, working with youth, environmental work – can be put to good use with nonprofits and local agencies. It can also be a way to increase your skills into something marketable for future employers.