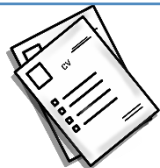


## Why Volunteer? Opportunities, Skills, Experiences...

Volunteering is a great way to...



### Boost Your Employment Prospects

Volunteering gives you experiences and opportunities to put on your resume, talk about in your interviews and help you develop skills



### Build Interpersonal Skills

Volunteering gives you the opportunity to build interpersonal skills you can apply to professional, personal and academic opportunities



### Make a Difference

Volunteering gives you a way to make a real contribution to an organization that you are passionate about

Whether you are volunteering for personal or professional development, the benefits are valuable and the skills are transferrable. You can take what you learned in volunteer positions and apply them to your professional, academic or personal work.

## How to Volunteer

- Think about where you would like to volunteer.
- Before you apply, take time to develop a thoughtful resume and cover letter.
  - This can be beneficial when you apply for a paid opportunity.
- Treat your volunteer opportunity the same as a paid employment opportunity.
  - You'll be building connections, enhancing transferrable skills and exploring potential career options.

## Where to Volunteer

Organizations across Hamilton offer a wide range of volunteer opportunities for students. These are a few ways to get started:

- Reference the "Volunteer: Places of Interest" tip sheet on our [website](#) for an extensive list of opportunities.
- Google an organization with "volunteer" in the search and explore related opportunities



## Using OSCARplus for Your Volunteer Search

**OSCARplus** is a McMaster resource to support you in your career, academic, recruitment and experience-building needs. On-campus and off-campus organizations consistently upload volunteer postings to recruit McMaster Students. This is a great way to begin your volunteer search.

Log in to [OSCARplus](#) and go to Student Success Centre > Volunteering to discover opportunities or book an appointment under “Volunteer Connections” to gain support with finding volunteer opportunities.

## Typical Skills Developed

The skills developed in volunteering positions can assist you in everyday activities, and they will help you in future professional positions. Some skills include:

Networking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet people who share a common interest</li> <li>• Build successful professional relationships</li> <li>• Gain entrance to a new world of volunteering or professional opportunities through networking</li> </ul>
Fundamental Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn and ask questions to understand and appreciate the points of views of others</li> <li>• Analyze situations and identify problems</li> <li>• Be creative and innovative in exploring solutions</li> </ul>
Teamwork and Collaboration Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand and work within the dynamics of a group</li> <li>• Able to manage and resolve conflict</li> <li>• Contribute to team goals by sharing information and expertise</li> </ul>
Personal Management Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work effectively without supervision</li> <li>• Plan, set and achieve learning goals</li> <li>• Become adaptable and work in ever-changing environments</li> </ul>

