

Get ahead by volunteering in 2018

There is no shortage of ways to volunteer, whether it's serving food to those less fortunate, assisting an organisation with basic office tasks, or cleaning out pens at an animal shelter. Whatever you do, know that volunteering can put you ahead of the pack when it comes to finding a job, and furthering your career. Here's how it'll get you ahead:

- **Volunteering is as credible as paid work.** [SEEK Volunteer](#) research found that 95% of employers believed that volunteering can be a credible way of gaining real-work experience to add to your [resume](#). In fact, as long as the volunteering work is relevant to the role or industry you want to work in, 85% of hirers believe that it's just as credible as paid work! That means it should feature in your resume and application, especially if you're looking to secure your first job or step into a new career.
- **Volunteering can be advantageous in a job interview.** So you've submitted a killer [resume](#), nailed the [selection criteria](#), and topped it off with one hell-of-a [cover letter](#). But are you ready for the interview? Assuming you've run through potential questions and practised with anyone willing, you should also make sure you know how to talk to your volunteer experience, explaining the connection it has to the role you're applying for, and your ability to do it exceptionally.

Further to this, a whopping 92% of employers said relevant volunteer experience gives candidates *an advantage* in job interviews! That means that the time you helped out at an [Australian Red Cross](#) event would be highly relevant for that [events co-ordinator](#) role you recently applied for. So talk it up in the interview.

- **Volunteering demonstrates positive personality traits, those valuable to employers.** Volunteering tells prospective employers a great deal about who you are, aside from what they've learned via your resume and role-related questions during the hiring process.

"Volunteering can demonstrate personality traits that are sometimes difficult to

convey in a profile or interview. Furthermore, employers are telling us that volunteering can speak volumes about a candidate's dedication and commitment to causes," says Bec Miller, Head of SEEK Volunteer.

Volunteering experience also paints a much clearer picture of your personality and core values. [SEEK Volunteer](#) research revealed that being motivated, socially responsible, and proactive were the top three personality traits associated with Australians that volunteered. These are also traits employers in any industry are likely to value.

In addition to this, there's hardly a job where being proactive and trustworthy won't be useful, and think of all the jobs that require good people-skills! Even employers who haven't personally taken part in volunteer activities have a positive attitude towards volunteering and those that volunteer, proving that you'll come up favourably at every career turn.

Find your volunteering fit on [SEEK Volunteer](#), and an opportunity that benefits your career today.

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