

Volunteering: Basic Information for Individuals

If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else. — Booker T. Washington

Getting Started:

- Passion – Find a cause/social issue that is important to you. Seek to understand how volunteers are already being utilized within your identified cause.
- Consider your skills/strengths – teaching, organizing, technology, caregiving, other aspects of your personality etc.
- Calendar – Review your current commitments. Outline how much time commitment you are able to give in volunteerism.

Points to Ponder:

- Consider volunteer opportunities available in your individual schedule already:
 - Helping coach your child's sports team
 - Greeting newcomers at Church
 - Help set-up for a race your participating in
- Nonprofits may have questions too. Agencies might want to interview or meet new volunteers. Training or background checks may be necessary before beginning actual volunteer work.
- Smaller committees often form to support a greater volunteer effort – one can gain experience in marketing, planning or project management.
- Increase impact by working with organizations around current needs rather than creating more work by introducing new projects.