

Showcasing your skills gained through service

Volunteering benefits your community and helps you grow, too. The experiences you gain develop transferable skills and strengthen your career readiness and advancement opportunities.

Skills you can gain through volunteering


- Leadership: leading projects, mentoring others, recruiting others to serve.
- Teamwork: working with others to reach a common goal.
- Communication: speaking, listening, writing, and presenting.
- Problem solving: finding creative solutions to problems.
- Organization and time management: meeting deadlines and keeping projects on track.
- Adaptability: learning to adjust when things don't go to plan.

How to highlight volunteer skills on a resume

- Use strong action verbs. Instead of "helped with an event," say: "Coordinated logistics for a community event with 300 attendees."
- Include measurable outcomes when possible: "Tutored five middle school students in math, resulting in improved test scores."
- List service alongside work and education; it shows transferable skills employers value.

How to highlight volunteer skills on job or college applications

- Share how service experiences shaped your goals, leadership, or interests.
- Use examples from service when answering questions about challenges, teamwork, or problem solving.
- Highlight how your service reflects commitment, reliability, and initiative.
- Emphasize uniquely human skills gained through service, such as teamwork, creative problem-solving, collaboration, and the ability to support and develop a team.



“Every hour you give in service is an investment in yourself and your community. The skills you build, the connections you make, and the impact you create become part of your lifelong journey. The time you spend volunteering is shaping your future and the world around you.”

-Loggins Merrill, Director, UServeUtah

Think of your volunteer service as part of your personal portfolio. The leadership, teamwork, and adaptability you’ve shown in service are the same qualities employers and schools are looking for. Don’t be afraid to draw clear connections. Describe what you did, the impact it had, and how it stretched you to grow.

As you move forward, remember that service can be a pathway for lifelong growth. Each project adds another layer of experience that strengthens your confidence, builds your network, and helps you clarify your goals. The skills you gain while serving can continue to shape the way you lead, collaborate, and contribute throughout your career and in your community.