

Types of volunteering

Traditional volunteering

This is what volunteering has been labelled since age-old. You could contact a local Charity or community organisation and work on one of their projects: It could be working directly with their beneficiaries or clients, or in the office as administrative support or as a fundraiser. These projects can be as short as a few hours, or as long as one year or more. You may wish to spend your birthday at a local charity, a one day volunteering role, but you may choose to visit them regularly. This becomes a long-term association.

Internship/gap year volunteering

More and more students are turning to volunteering with Charities as their preferred internship and gap-year option. Working in the community sector provides valuable career experience and aids the development of skills and knowledge. In this case you will be working daily with the Charity concerned, and it is therefore important to undertake some research on who they are and what they do before you join them: And more so if it's in a foreign country. There are also many agencies that can place you with reliable charities abroad but they may charge a fee for this service.

Volun-tourism

Volun-tourism or volunteer travel is a great way of combining tourism and volunteering. It provides the unique opportunity to see a place as an insider, live with locals and get access to many behind-the-scene activities in an area. Before you plan a trip, search for overseas charities and connect with them to explore how

you can help in the amount of time that you have. You should also connect with other travellers on various forums such as Lonely Planet or Trip Advisor.

Online volunteering

The Internet has made geographical boundaries non-existent. Online volunteering makes it possible to volunteer for different organisations in different countries from your home or office, and at your convenience. Projects may involve assistance with social media, website development, designing material, proof-reading, writing articles or providing translations. This type of volunteering role is particularly good for business, or for those whose time is limited.

Micro volunteering

Micro volunteering is a subset of online volunteering, and has gained in popularity over recent years. Micro Volunteering combines small actions by many people to create big impacts: Typically short (actually very short) projects, mostly completed online. With Micro Volunteering, you could save the world whilst still dressed in your Pyjamas.

Support Cambridgeshire is a partnership of three trusted community organisations, Hunts Forum, Cambridge CVS and Cambridgeshire Acre. Support Cambridgeshire does not directly place volunteers, but will act as a signposting service to those organisations who might meet your needs. If you require more information, please contact info@supportcambridgeshire.org.uk