

# Volunteering Abroad

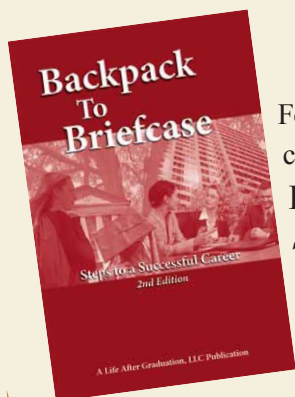
Are you wrapping up college, and not sure what to do next? Do you want to see how people in other countries live? Are you looking for adventure, challenge, and meaningful experiences? If you are answering yes to these questions, then volunteering abroad may be the right choice for you. **By Justine Simon**

These days, more and more young Americans are choosing to volunteer abroad. It's a big world out there, and doing volunteer work in other countries is a great way to get to know different cultures, meet people who you would never meet otherwise, and have experiences that you will never forget. People who volunteer abroad get to work closely with local people and get an insider's look into their way of life that a regular tourist will never get. In addition, volunteering abroad is an excellent resume builder. International exposure, cross-cultural understanding and diverse experiences are highly valued in today's global economy.

Once you've decided that you want to volunteer abroad, your next decision is where you want to go and what kind of work you would like to do. From teaching English in Ecuador to building schools in Tanzania, there are a ton of projects out there and the choice is yours!

Other factors that you want to take into account is the length of the project and cost of the program. Trips can range in length from weeks to months, and the cost of the program varies accordingly. Program fees cover the cost of orientation, accommodation, food, transportation and project materials. While there are organizations that you can volunteer for free of charge, going through an established volunteer abroad program is recommended for first-time travelers or those seeking extra support when overseas.

Volunteering abroad is an extremely valuable experience. It allows you to not only see the world and meet interesting people, but it is also guaranteed to strengthen your resume and make you a desirable employee.



For more information about achieving career success after college, read

**Backpack To Briefcase:**  
*Steps to a Successful Career.*

Now that you're all revved up and looking for places to go, check out the following websites!

## Volunteer Abroad

<http://www.volunteerabroad.com/search.cfm>

A one-stop site for students looking to gain international experience.

## Cross Cultural Solutions

<http://www.crossculturalsolutions.org/default.asp>

CCS has been in operation for over 10 years, drawing over 3,000 volunteers each year. This organization is committed to providing safe, transparent and professional programs.

## Transitions Abroad

<http://www.transitionsabroad.com/index.shtml>

According to the Association of International Educators TA is "the single most useful and important" resource for work abroad, study abroad, cultural travel overseas, and international living.

## Operations Crossroads Africa

<http://operationcrossroadsafrica.org/main.php>

This program was established in 1958 to build working relationships between North Americans and Africans.

## Amizade

<http://amizade.org/> Has a host of community driven volunteer programs and service learning programs worldwide.

## Global Impact

<http://www.charity.org/site/c.gtJUJfMQIqE/b.2401643/k.BDB9/Home.htm>

A non-profit organization that represents more than 50 of the most respected U.S based international charities. This organization is involved with disaster relief, education, health training and economic programs that promote self-sufficiency.

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