

PUT A PLAN INTO ACTION TODAY!

# VOLUNTEERING IN THE NON-PROFIT SECTOR

Discover the Transformative Potential!

**LOG IN** to [navigator.wlu.ca](https://navigator.wlu.ca) to access hundreds of off-campus volunteer positions.

**PARTICIPATE** in the Experiential Learning in the Non-Profit Sector Certificate program. Learn more at [students.wlu.ca/volunteer](https://students.wlu.ca/volunteer).

**VISIT** Laurier's Career Centre website at [students.wlu.ca/career](https://students.wlu.ca/career) or set up an individual appointment with one of our Career Consultants for support with:

- Exploring career options
- Improving your resumé
- Finding volunteer or paid work
- Preparing for interviews
- Applying to further education
- ...and much more

**Transform your community. Transform your future. Volunteer.**



## GET TO KNOW THE NON-PROFIT SECTOR

Canada's charitable and non-profit sector does more than support our quality of life and well-being. At 170,000 organizations and growing, the sector currently sustains two million careers within:

- Social Services
- Research
- Health
- Environmental Sustainability
- Recreation
- International Development
- Spirituality
- Education

In addition to seeking individuals with people-oriented skills, the non-profit sector is increasingly looking for technical skill sets including business, math, science and technology.

Most non-profit organizations depend on the valuable support of volunteers. In Canada, over 13 million people volunteer in the charitable and non-profit sector.

Non-profits offer countless opportunities to take initiative, explore various roles, interact closely with leadership, and ultimately, advance one's career at a faster rate.

## MAXIMIZE YOUR VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

### START EARLY.

Don't wait until you graduate to begin volunteering, especially as volunteering could help you to make more informed decisions about your educational direction.

### THINK QUALITY OVER QUANTITY.

Be thoughtful about what you can realistically manage and prioritize positions that are meaningful to you.

### LEAVE AN OUTSTANDING IMPRESSION.

Treat your volunteer position just as you would treat a paid position. Be punctual, professional, attentive and collegial. Look for opportunities to take on leadership roles and to learn from those with more experience.

### PRACTICE REFLECTION.

Be observant of your surroundings, ask questions and pay attention to the broad systemic issues that impact organizations and their service users. This can make your involvement a profoundly meaningful learning experience.

## FEATURE YOUR VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE IN YOUR RESUMÉS AND INTERVIEWS

Use your volunteer experience to demonstrate the many competencies you've gained. The Laurier Competency Framework below includes the knowledge, skills and attributes you may have developed in your volunteer experiences:

- Adaptability and resiliency
- Collaboration and teamwork
- Communication
- Creativity and innovation
- Critical thinking
- Diversity and intercultural understanding
- Functional knowledge
- Leadership
- Problem solving
- Professional attributes
- Self-awareness
- Technological ability

