



## Being a Valuable Volunteer

### 1. Bring a positive attitude - it's contagious!

- Often the best thing you can bring with you as a volunteer is a positive, 'can-do' attitude and a willingness to get stuck in. Photocopying? I'm not it!

### 2. Make sure you and your organization have the same expectations.

- If you have very different ideas about what your role will be problems are likely to arise.
- It is also important to be realistic about what you plan to 'achieve' and remember that volunteers are most useful when supporting permanent staff achieve long-term goals.

### 3. Embrace a culture of sharing and two-way exchange.

- I'm sure that you have valuable skills to share with your organization but remember that you are also learning a lot from them too.
- The most mutually rewarding placements are those where the culture of sharing is embraced by all.

### 4. Do what is most important not what is most interesting.

- Your contribution will be most valuable when you are using your skills to best support the organization's work.
- It is true that your photos of you painting walls or playing with children might be more Facebook-friendly, but editing documents or filling out grant applications is probably a lot more useful.

### 5. Adopt a learning attitude and keep an open mind.

- Try not to start your placement with fixed ideas about what you will do there.
- You might have lots of ideas but be open to new insights.
- Remember, dealing with the new and unexpected is why we travel to foreign countries and is a good way to learn and grow.



## 6. Your commitment does not need to end when your placement does.

- By embracing learning and sharing beyond the scope of your placement, you can continue to bring positive change in your community, country, or the world.
- Helping others should not just be a vacation stint in an exotic country but a life-long commitment.

For more information visit [learningservice.info](https://learningservice.info)  
or email us directly at [contact@learningservice.info](mailto:contact@learningservice.info)

