



VIRTUAL SERVICE & VOLUNTEER GUIDE



questions?
need advice?
contact admin@apo.org

*"Always render more and better service than is expected of you, no matter what your task may be."
Og Mandino, Author*





Tau Chapter at the University of Florida

WHAT IS **VIRTUAL SERVICE**

Virtual service is a type of volunteerism that allows you to share your time and talents as members through service away from any physical site of an organization or project. It is an ideal way to extend your reach and create positive change from afar. The spirit of service is not limited to in-person interaction and can be adapted and changed to a more virtual environment to fit the needs of the chapter, campus, community and cause.

WHAT ARE **THE BENEFITS OF VIRTUAL SERVICE**

FLEXIBLE! Virtual service is flexible and able to suit individual interests or needs. Many online search engines enable people to narrow opportunities to the amount of time they want to serve and when they would choose to do their service projects even if in the middle of the night!

NO LIMIT ON LOCATION! Virtual volunteers can provide service projects from anywhere, including in their PJ's on the couch, while making a difference as far away as the other side of the world. Anyone with an internet connection can participate.

SKILLS BASED! Want to use your skills to advance the common good? Virtual Volunteering allows you to share your skills around the world. Want to get more practice with skills? There are opportunities for you too!

VARIETY! Virtual service lets you engage with different industries and for various amounts of time. Additionally, if you find something you are passionate about, you can find similar projects or stick with the same organization for multiple projects.

HOW CAN CHAPTERS INCORPORATE VIRTUAL SERVICE?

Many chapters offer service programs that are two-fold. One that involves a group of chapter members providing a service project and one that includes individuals completing an individual or outside service project, not with the chapter. Virtual service projects can operate in the same manner as your individual/outside service project(s), and the reporting requirements required as proof can be the same as well.

If the individual/outside service project is new to your chapter, there are a few suggestions on how to track the service project provided by the chapter members.

1. Have the members submit their volunteer requests ahead of time to the appropriate officer. The officer should let the member know how many hours they will receive for the approved project. When members have completed the project, they should submit proof of completion to the appropriate chapter officer or service vice president.
2. Have members complete service projects and submit proof of project completion via a form, email, or chapter designated reporting area. The officer in charge of approving service hours or requirements should let the member know the number of hours they will be receiving.



Theta Theta Chapter at Centre College

VIRTUAL SERVICE

VIRTUAL SERVICE LIST

ONLINE ONLY IDEAS

7Cups: Be an online LISTENER - The training takes around 30 minutes to complete. Your progress will be saved, so if you have to stop partway, just log back in to continue from where you left off.

Amnesty Decoders: A network of digital volunteers helping research and expose human rights violations.

Autoimmune Registry: Write a disease profile and help the Autoimmune Registry create a single source of help for those with any of the 140+ autoimmune diseases.

Be My Eyes: Be My Eyes is a free mobile app with one main goal: to make the world more accessible for blind and low-vision people. The app connects blind and low-vision individuals with sighted volunteers and companies from all over the world through a live video call.

CareerVillage: You sign up as a Professional on CareerVillage.org, specify your skill sets, and match students' questions to you. You will be notified by email when requests for advice are posted that are relevant to your expertise

Charity Miles: Download the app, choose a charity that matters to you (or your chapter), open the app and move! For every mile you walk or run, you help earn money for the charity of choice, which is funded by a corporate sponsorship pool. You can also get sponsored by your friends.

Crisis Text Line: requires a commitment of 4 hours per week until 200 hours are reached as well as a required training period before being able to volunteer. Work as an online counselor for a crisis hotline.

Distributed Proofreaders: Volunteer to proofread and help convert Public Domain OCRs of books into ebooks!

LibriVox: Read books written before 1923 and convert them into AudioBooks

Missing Maps: Volunteers are asked to map some of the most vulnerable areas on Earth, so that crisis teams can respond whenever there is a natural or humanitarian disaster more efficiently. Helping this organization and its partners (which includes the Red Cross and Médecins Sans Frontières) is as simple as looking at satellite images on your computer and then adding buildings and roads to maps.

School in the Cloud: Have skype sessions with children abroad to inspire them, provide guidance, answer general life questions, and provide encouragement

Smithsonian Digital Transcription: Become a Smithsonian Digital Volunteer and help us make historical documents and biodiversity data more accessible. Join 14,633 "volunteers" to add more to the total 514,253 pages of field notes, diaries, ledgers, logbooks, currency proof sheets, photo albums, manuscripts, biodiversity specimens labels.

Translators Without Borders: You must be fluent in at least one other language other than your native language. You can translate a wide variety of things as there are many projects to choose from on their site. Must apply to participate.

Zooniverse: People-powered biology and species based research done as a collaborative group.

DATABASES OF ONLINE ONLY IDEAS

United Nations e-Volunteering: From translating to fundraising or researching and training - lots to get into here.

Catchafire: Database of online volunteering opportunities. Some are just a few hours and others are a long term commitment.



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DATABASES OF ONLINE ONLY IDEAS CON'T

Operation Warm 25 Online ideas: Note some of these require physically making something to send off to a recipient - make sure you are not sick before committing to a hands-on project!

Do Something! Another list of ideas for where to start.

VolunteerMatch: Want to volunteer from anywhere? Explore the best volunteer organizations and hundreds of virtual volunteer opportunities in areas like health and medicine, children and youth, education, community building, and more.

All For Good: With more than 2,000 projects listed, it's a digital hub for volunteerism and community engagement. Volunteer opportunities from many sites around the web are pulled into All for Good by feeds to provide the most comprehensive database of volunteer opportunities around the world.

Help from Home: Volunteer your time in bite sized chunks, from your own home and when you want to. Benefit worthy causes to suit your lifestyle at your own convenience. Dip in, dip out with absolutely no commitment.

Create The Good: is an organization that aims to help those who are interested in helping others and want to give back but cannot due to not being physically present. The idea is to get those with hectic schedules or those caring for others (children, seniors, etc.) to have a platform from where they can offer their types of service projects.

Do-It: a national volunteering database with over a million opportunities available. It is also a platform that thousands of people trust, although you should note that the majority of the opportunities available in this database are for local work. However, it also offers many online volunteering opportunities, as well.

“NEVER DOUBT THAT A **SMALL GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL, COMMITTED CITIZENS **CAN CHANGE THE WORLD**. INDEED, IT IS **THE ONLY THING THAT EVERY HAS.**” MARGARET MEAD**
