

Virtual Volunteer Ideas

Offering a variety of volunteer opportunities is one way to ensure club members find at least one thing in which they'd feel comfortable participating. Has your club thought about incorporating virtual activities for members?

In the past, the typical image of our volunteer efforts would include planting a garden, revitalizing a local park or painting a lively mural at a school. Yet all around the globe, at any given time, thousands (if not millions) of engaged citizens volunteer virtually — using their computers, the Internet, even their smart phones.

Virtual volunteers can complete short-term or long-term tasks, in whole or in part, typically off-site from the organization or person being assisted. If you've got access to a computer, thousands of different volunteer projects and roles are available to club members — from your home, the library, a coffee shop, anywhere with an Internet connection.

Many schools are opening this fall and many are not opening in a traditional sense. This is state by state, county by county, and school by school. In my state of Georgia, I am already back at work in the building. My students have the opportunity to either be in the traditional classroom or participate in distance learning. All staff in my school must report to the school building. This is fluid and can change daily. In your community, schools may not be opening for months. How can you help schools in this ever-changing pandemic?

Here are a few suggestions from fellow educators and club women:

1. Record stories for teachers to use as a read-aloud.
2. Be a virtual volunteer in the classroom by reading a story, presenting a learning opportunity, or showing a STEM activity to the class.
3. Collect supplies for STEM and drop off at the school.
4. Provide online tutoring to students.
5. Provide one on one assistance to a student virtually (help with sight words, math facts, etc).
6. Record sessions for specific grade levels to use. An example would be with sight words. Record "I say _____. You say _____" and hold up the word. Sets could be in words of 10 or 20 words. The student could play this over and over for students. This would allow the teacher to take attendance or prepare for the next lesson while students watch the review.
7. Does a member have an interesting career? Prepare a virtual career fair for the students interviewing members or their families.
8. Share member talents or hobbies. Show students how to crochet, knit, paint, etc.
9. Lead a relaxation or stretching activity students could do at their desk or at home.

10. Build a Free Little Library and keep it stocked with books.
11. Make face masks for educators. Some systems may require it and others may not.
12. Sponsor a scholarship for college.

Now would also be a great time to boost your ESO state and club programs.

Here is a list of various organizations to volunteer virtually:

[BookShare.Org](#) offers thousands of books to people with reading disabilities. As an online volunteer you can either scan books to be added to the collection or edit books that have been scanned.

[Distributed Proofreaders](#). These online volunteers turn public domain books into online books, mostly for [Project Gutenberg](#). Many volunteers work on a book at the same time and proofread each other's work.

[Learning Ally](#). Many audiobooks are created with text-to-speech software that scans text from computer files and uses synthesized human voices to read the text aloud. However, illustrations or figures used throughout the books are not included. Online volunteers type those figure descriptions into the text, enabling students to receive ALL book material, not just the text.

[LibriVox](#) is a nonprofit that coordinates online volunteers to record audio versions of public domain books.

Through the online platform, '[StoriiTime](#),' parents can set up a video call with their child and an isolated senior. Seniors can read children's books to little ones, or kids can read to a senior. This virtual interaction can improve a child's listening, social and vocabulary skills and support seniors by bringing joy and a connection to an experienced older generation.

[Translators Without Borders](#) recruits volunteers who want to translate texts into different languages for NGOs and nonprofits.

[Career Village](#). An online platform where students ask career questions that are answered by people working, or that have worked, in that field. All you need is a LinkedIn account to start helping students become better informed about the career decisions they are facing.

[CricketTogether](#) was developed in response to an increasing demand for youth mentorship as schools work to instill 21st century skills. The program is a safe, innovative turnkey eMentoring solution that offers employee volunteers a meaningful opportunity to deliver a compelling educational experience for children and teachers across the country.

The [Girls with Impact](#) Boardroom is the follow-on virtual mentoring program for girls who have graduated from their 10-week live, online Business Academy class that teaches entrepreneurship classes to high school students. During the Academy, girls go from ideation to creating a business plan for a business, non-profit or venture.

[icouldbe.org](#) is meant to connect the energy and expertise of mentors from various professions with the most vulnerable students in the U.S. educational system.

[Infinite Family](#), an online mentoring program matching adults and families in the U.S. with at-risk, impoverished children in South Africa.

[MicroMentor](#) matches small business owners with business mentors. Volunteer mentors should have three years of business ownership experience, or five years of management experience, or several years of professional experience in a specialized skill. The program is part of [MercyCorps](#).

[MentorNet](#), a division of Great Minds in STEM (GMiS), strategically matches STEM students and professionals in compatible online mentoring relationships.

Pacific Community Venture's [BusinessAdvising.org](#) platform enables companies to offer scalable volunteer opportunities that are 100% remote – you can volunteer on the phone, over Facetime and video chat, or even on email. If you have expertise in finance, HR, marketing, and other areas that are specifically helpful to serve as a thought partner with small business owners suddenly facing a challenging economic environment, your skills are especially needed now.

[PA eMentoring](#) is seeking working and retired adults, parents, and mature college students, ready to volunteer 15 minutes per week from your computer as online mentors for teens and young adults. Must be willing to write about and share your own “college” and career story.

ScholarMatch makes college possible for underserved youth, from application all the way through college graduation. Community members inspire our students and create life-changing opportunities. [Volunteer virtually](#) as a college coach or career coach!

The [School in the Cloud](#) is a platform, driven by a global community, that connects Self-Organised Learning Environments and the Granny Cloud in an organic movement toward a more inclusive, universal education. Anyone can create a SOLE — spark curiosity in children by asking them to explore a Big Question using the Internet and their ability to work together. Learning happens spontaneously in these purposefully chaotic environments.

[Skills for Change](#) is known for pioneering programs that respond to shifting immigration and workplace trends and lead to employment. Join their e-mentoring program to assist skilled internationally-educated professionals in their settlement process, language skills development, and provide entrepreneurship guidance.

Through [StudentMentor.org's](https://www.studentmentor.org/) innovative national mentoring program based on its pioneering technology platform, college students can conveniently find and collaborate with mentors from diverse industries and professions to achieve their academic and career goals.

In an on-demand, digital age, where your next ride is available via the tap of your finger, why should volunteerism be restricted by city lines? Virtual volunteering can solve distance dilemmas. With online sessions through [TeensGive.org](https://www.teensgive.org/), high school volunteers can connect with children attending Title 1 schools across the country. Teen volunteers can host free one-on-one virtual tutoring sessions to help kids with homework or improve their reading, writing, and math skills.

[TutorMate](https://www.tutormate.com/) is an online volunteer program designed to support literacy learning in grade one classrooms. The program uses interactive technology to create an integrated online experience that connects corporate volunteers and first grade students. During weekly tutoring sessions, the tutor and student work on activities that foster fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary. According to their website, they are present in 24 major cities in the US, [Canada](#) and the [UK](#).

[UPchieve](https://www.upchieve.com/) is a free, online platform that connects low-income high school students in the U.S. with live, volunteer coaches (that's you!) any time they need it. Coaches provide either math tutoring or college counseling, to help students improve their grades, academic motivation, and chances of going to college.

Year Up creates a supportive community for students and they are always looking for new faces to help. A mentorship is an especially personal way to impact a young adult's life. [As a mentor to a Year Up](#) student, you'll have a unique opportunity to help young adults navigate new experiences and shape their careers. It's your chance to inspire—and be inspired by—motivated, up and-coming talent in the workforce. You'll also have opportunities to network with like-minded professionals.

[Help From Home](#) has a mix of volunteering activities you can do from home, both online and without a computer. Most are microvolunteering – tasks that require just a few minutes or a few hours.

[Ancestry.com's World Archives Program \(AWAP\)](https://www.ancestry.com/world-archives-program) provides free software to its volunteers to access already-scanned images and transcribe them into a common, publicly-searchable database. The Ancestry World Archives Project's online volunteers use their passion for genealogy to help others discover their roots.

[Carnamah Historical Society virtual volunteering initiative](#) uses online volunteers to help with transcription and indexing projects to make historical records more discoverable and searchable.

[Smithsonian Archives of American Gardens](https://www.si.edu/american-gardens) is an online database of thousands of images in the Smithsonian's Collections Search Center. By correctly tagging an image regarding the types of plants in the image, the structures, objects, people, or any details

you notice, you help make that image more useful to professional catalogers in museums, archives and libraries.

The [Smithsonian Digital Volunteer program](#) engages the public in making its collections more accessible. Digital volunteers transcribe historic documents and collection records to facilitate research and preserve these valuable assets for future generations.