

CHALLENGE 1

BAG THAT EXPERIENCE!

When you're applying for work, employers need to know that you have the skills and experience to successfully do the role. We know... You're probably thinking 'but how can I get experience if I can't get a job?'

The great thing is, you don't actually need a job to begin with - there are lots of different ways you can gain experience and enhance your skills... Volunteering and 'work experience' are just two ways to do this.

There are loads of places looking for volunteers, or an extra helping hand. A lot of companies and organisations understand that young people need experience to be able to go forth and realistically get a job. Getting experience is vital to the whole job searching process. It will impress employers and show them that you are motivated and willing to learn. Importantly, it will give you something worthwhile to put on your CV, in your applications and speak about at interview.

GAINING EXPERIENCE

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You might think that volunteering is just 'working for free' and isn't worth your time, but think again! The benefits can be huge – meeting new people, learning from others, getting the experience to take your next steps and maybe even bagging a decent reference if you turn up on time and work hard! There are lots of opportunities to volunteer, from catering, to fundraising, to office work; you can pretty much find an opportunity to suit any interest.

Once you have this experience under your belt, you then have relevant stuff to put on your CV, in your applications and importantly, to talk about at interview. It really is a great way to get your foot on the ladder.

TOP TIP!

Whilst volunteering or on work experience, make sure you keep a regular record of what tasks you are completing whilst there, and think about what 'skills' you are actively using to complete each task. We've included a handy little 'Skills and Activity' recording template in our 'Reserves' section lettered C that you can use.

Check out page L in our 'Reserves' section for details of where to look for volunteering opportunities in your area!

