

All you need to make a difference is an internet connection.



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Somebody somewhere is probably complaining about the fact that folks are spending more and more time online. But what they may not realize is that there's a whole lot of good that can come from the internet, particularly through online volunteering.

Volunteering online lets you donate your virtual time to a cause space that matters, which means you can make a difference even if you can't go physically volunteer somewhere. Check out our list below to learn about a few different ways you can create IRL impact through online action (plus one way to take action *right now*).

1. United Nations Volunteers

If you're looking to take your online volunteering worldwide, this is the place to start. UNV connects you with organizations working for peace and development in need of skills like research, writing, art, and design. There are already over 12,000 volunteers from 187 countries lending their talents to organizations around the globe.

2. Catchafire

This volunteer search tool is exclusively for online volunteer projects. Each one has a timeline that can range anywhere from an hour to a few weeks. So whether you have an afternoon or several, you can help not-for-profit with tasks like writing thank you letters or editing photos.

3. Smithsonian Digital Volunteers

The Smithsonian Institution is the [world's largest museum, education, and research complex](#), but even they could use a little help sometimes. Help make their collections more accessible by volunteering online to transcribe historical documents or edit Wikipedia articles related to their artifacts and research.

4. Amnesty Decoders

Operated by [Amnesty International](#), this network of digital volunteers helps conduct research into global human rights violations. Volunteers have used their phones and computers to verify the location of oil spills, find evidence of drone strikes, and flag abusive tweets to women politicians in India.

5. [Translators Without Borders](#)

For those fluent in more than one language, check out this nonprofit that combines language skills with humanitarian aid. Volunteers provide translations (10 million words a year!) to international organizations that focus on crisis relief, health and education.

6. [Crisis Text Line](#)

Here’s a perfect example of technology being used for good. Become a volunteer to help the Crisis Text Line continue to offer free, 24/7 support for those in crisis. If you’re at least 18 and can commit to volunteering four hours each week, you can apply to be trained for free.

7. [Zooniverse](#)

Zooniverse is a platform for people-powered research that literally wouldn’t be possible (or practical) without the help of online volunteers. Spend as much or as little time as you’d like identifying endangered animals, classifying galaxy systems, or transcribing Shakespearean manuscripts.

8. [Project Gutenberg](#)

Founded in 1971, this may just be the virtual volunteering effort that started it all. The goal is to create the largest digital library, and so far they’ve amassed 59,000 free eBooks. Volunteer by donating [eligible materials](#), transcribing books into a digital form, or proofreading others’ work.

9. [DoSomething.org](#)

DoSomething empowers young people to enact social change both online or off. Volunteer online through [one of our campaigns](#) to help solve real-world problems. DoSomething members have used the internet to [successfully urge Apple to diversify their emojis](#), [change the dictionary definition of “Black/black”](#), and [create the largest crowdsourced anti-bullying guide](#).

Take Action Now

Looking for something you can do right now? Since the outbreak in December, hundreds of thousands of people have contracted COVID-19, spreading rapidly across the globe. In order to prevent the virus from spreading, health experts and politicians are urging Americans to practice social distancing.

Social distancing is new for many young people, but it’s so necessary to stop the spread of the virus. We’re sharing tips on how to practice social distancing with young people across the country, share yours below.

Share your tips below

My tip for social distancing is...

500 characters remaining

The data you submit in this form will be handled in accordance with the DoSomething website [privacy policy](#). It will be reviewed by a DoSomething staff member.

- Staying home gives an opportunity to learn how to cook new, cheap meals. Try learning new recipes that you can use during and after this break! If you live on rural area, try going for walks on dirt roads if you need to get outside. Plus, you can get some exercise while the gym is closed! FaceTime your friends to talk to people besides the people you live with.

null tips shared

- My tip for social distancing is to stay home and watch Netflix

Awwi

null tips shared

- Is to over estimate the six feet. It’s better safe than sorry. There are a lot of susceptible out there even if you aren’t one.

Emma

null tips shared

- The best tip for physical distancing is to stay inside! Though you miss your friends and being out and about, now is the perfect time to explore things you can do on your own. The world we live in today talks a lot about self-care, but self-care isn’t just face masks and bubble baths. Self-care is about making you the best you that you can be. Take a course online, learn a new skill, read a book, listen to music, pet your dog. Take these several weeks just for you, it is invaluable.

Kariel

null tips shared

- My tip for physical distancing is to stay aware of your surroundings when you're outside - if you see someone in your path, move so that you won't be as close to them when you pass, and, if possible, cross to the other side of the road.

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