

How Volunteering Can Impact Your Career

ALEX POLLACK & BRIAN AMBIELLI

Two Tales of Volunteerism



Alex:

Northwestern

WEINBERG COLLEGE
OF ARTS & SCIENCES



**NORTHERN
TRUST**

Brian:

McCormick

Northwestern Engineering



Expedia®

Outline

1. Alex's Background & Perspective
2. Brian's Background & Perspective
3. What makes a good Volunteer Opportunity?
4. How to get involved?
5. Questions



Helping Others Reach Their Full Potential

- NU Club of Columbus board member
- Metro Achievement Center for Girls tutor
- Tutormate tutor
- United Way ambassador
- Community Involvement Committee chair
- NU Club of Chicago board member
- NAA Alumni Engagement Committee member
- NU Mentorship program
- Step Up mentor



United Way of
Metropolitan Chicago



NU Clubs of Columbus & Chicago



Northern Trust Community Involvement Committee

Jane Addams
Resource
Corporation, 2016



Tutormate (2017)



Metro Achievement Center (2017)





Why I Volunteer

- **Helping others is rewarding**
- I have made **best friends** through volunteering experiences
- Practice **negotiation and teamwork skills** out of the office
- Great **stories for grad school and job interviews**
- Building a **network** of professional and personal contacts
- Learned **how to plan events and lead a group** of people working on different tasks

According to Deloitte

- Only 1 in 3 job seekers mentions unpaid community service on his or her resume

According to Deloitte

- Skills-based volunteering makes candidates better at communicating

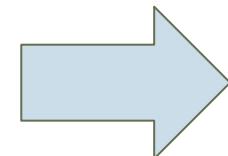
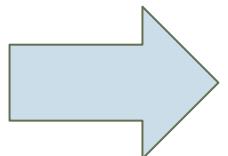


Career Impact

- Develop a network of individuals outside of Northern Trust
- Learn career tips from others
- Network with Northern Trust leaders
- Asked to lead an investment associate program
- Lead a 10-member committee
 - Oversee budget, event planning



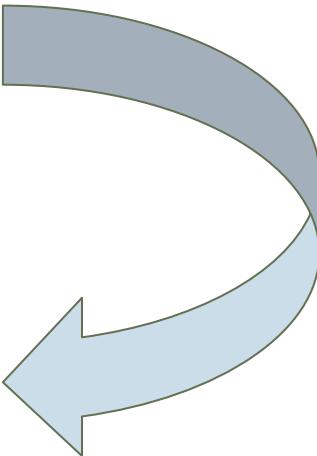
Personal Impact





Personal Impact

M E T R O
A C H I E V E M E N T
C E N T E R
F O R G I R L S



- Great stories for interviews

CHICAGO BOOTH 

The University of Chicago Booth School of Business

Possible Interview Questions...

- What is a significant contribution you have made outside of work?
- How did you help a team to achieve a goal?
- Tell me about a time you assumed a leadership role and how you handled it
- Tell me about a time you went above and beyond
- Tell me about a time you made a lasting impact



Teaching and Mentoring Focused



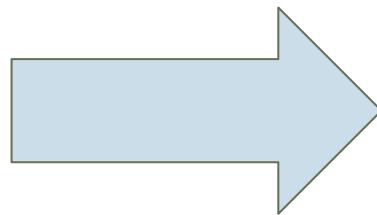
Tutormate Program



Chicago Tech Academy "Power Lunch" Series
<http://promo.g2crowd.com/ita/>



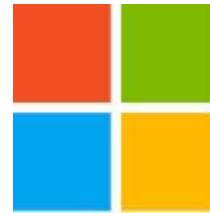
From Salt Lake to Chicago...





<https://www.tealsk12.org/>
for more information^^^

- AP Computer Science Teacher
- Learned about the program...
from a Google search!
- **Full Year Commitment** - class in morning, then off to work



Microsoft



Depaul College Prep - **Go Rams!**



Personal Benefits & Career Impact

- Each Class was a **Technical Refresher**
- Long term student growth
- **Unexpected:** Summer Teacher Training
- Classroom Ops → analogous to Running Meetings



Northwestern | CODING BOOT CAMP

- TA for WebDev Bootcamp
- Learned about the program via LinkedIn
- **6 month Commitment - M/W after work + Saturdays**





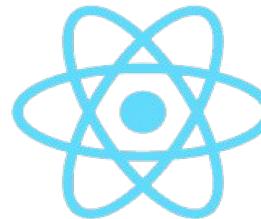
Personal Benefits & Career Impact

- Mentoring Junior Engineers
- Communicating technical topics to non-technical audiences
- **Unexpected:** How many student questions I couldn't answer!
- Fun to get back on the Evanston Campus.



Recently at work...

Approached by a engineer developing React.js curriculum internally



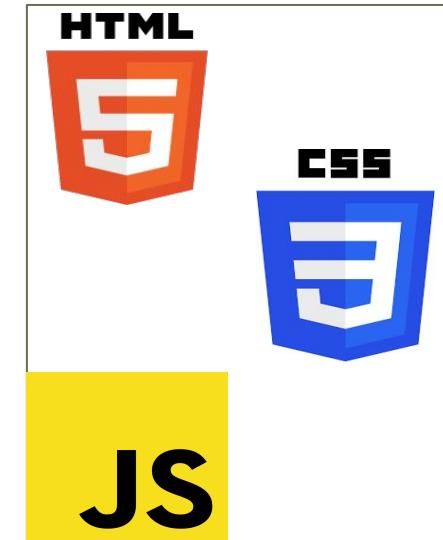
React

I now have experience teaching React + Web Technologies from my volunteer work with NUCBC



Moral of My Story

Everyone works in a technical field



Apply your technical skills to opportunities outside of work!

Why should you volunteer?

- Soft skills development - communication
- Make new friends
- Work with those higher-up at your organization
- Practice leadership skills
- Make a difference in your community
- Add to your resume
- Have fun!

What Makes a Good Volunteer Opportunity

- Aligned with your interests
 - I.e., interested in animals, education, arts & culture, humanitarian causes
 - Since this is your free time, it should be fun & meaningful

What Makes a Good Volunteer Opportunity

- Adequate resources

- The non-profit should be organized, with low required monetary costs
- The opportunity should be well-defined and necessary items provided for

What Makes a Good Volunteer Opportunity

- Appropriate time commitment
 - Know in advance how much time you can give, so that you do not let down the organization and other volunteers depending on you
 - But still try to make it **substantial enough** that you're committed!
 - You'll make the most impact with a longer-term commit.

One-time vs Ongoing Opportunities

- One-time opportunities

- Get a taste of the organization without a full commitment
- Low time requirement

- Ongoing opportunities

- Make a bigger impact
- Develop lasting relationships and skills

How to get involved?

- Work
 - Business resource councils, e.g., “Advancing Professionals Resource Council”
 - Many organizations have mandatory or optional “volunteer days”
 - Use these days to “try out” an organization before committing
 - Corporate philanthropic involvement
 - Ask your community affairs team at work what causes the organization supports & go from there

How to get involved?

- On your own
 - Ask others where they volunteer & why they enjoy it
 - Look for organizations that support causes you believe in
 - Try out an organization by organizing a group event
 - Google search :)

How to get involved?

•VolunteerMatch.org

Secure https://www.volunteermatch.org/search/index.jsp?r=msa&l=60827#k=&v=false&s=&o=distanceBand&l=Chicago%2CIL&r=msa&sk=&specialGroupsData... ☆

Apps Bookmarks Schweser Online Pr... Post to Squarespace Caremark Other Bookmarks

VolunteerMatch.org

VOLUNTEERS ▾ NONPROFITS ▾ SIGN IN • REGISTER • [Log In](#) • [Log In](#) • SUPPORT

Join • Opportunities • Organizations • Volunteer Stories

NARROW YOUR SEARCH

Keywords Advanced Search (Search by Country, Skills and more!)

LOCAL or VIRTUAL

Local (you'll go to a physical location)

Virtual (you can do it from a computer, your home or anywhere!)

CAUSE AREAS

Arts & Culture (200)

Children & Youth (479)

Community (902)

Education & Literacy (309)

We've found 1,929 volunteer opportunities near Chicago, IL

DISPLAYING 1 - 10 OF 1929 SORT BY Near You & New

ON GOING Get into shape by walking shelter dogs! with Tails Humane Society

PURPOSE OF POSITION: To help ensure that the shelter dogs receive at least the minimum recommended number of walks/exercise each day and...

A 2250 Barber Greene Rd DeKalb, IL 60115 It's Flexible! We'll work with your schedule

Learn More

ON GOING Foster Puppies with Tails Humane Society with Tails Humane Society

Tails Foster program is an integral part of our mission to save the lives of companion animals through rescue, adoption and

Host an International High School Exchange Student with SHARE! High School Student Exchange Program... 2 REVIEWS SHARE my heart & home with a high school exchange student. Make next year the most enriching for your family ever! SHARE! High School Exchange Program Waco, TX 76701 It's Flexible! We'll work with your schedule

Learn More

Featured Volunteer Opportunity sponsored by SHARE!

VolunteerMatch.org

3 results are not shown



How to get involved?

- Filter for what you care about

Choose your cause areas:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Advocacy & Human... (186) | <input type="checkbox"/>  Emergency & Safety (31) | <input type="checkbox"/>  LGBT (22) |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Animals (188) | <input type="checkbox"/>  Employment (41) | <input type="checkbox"/>  Media & Broadcasting (22) |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Arts & Culture (200) | <input type="checkbox"/>  Environment (125) | <input type="checkbox"/>  People with... (157) |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Board Development (38) | <input type="checkbox"/>  Faith-Based (96) | <input type="checkbox"/>  Politics (33) |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Children & Youth (479) | <input type="checkbox"/>  Health & Medicine (522) | <input type="checkbox"/>  Race & Ethnicity (14) |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Community (902) | <input type="checkbox"/>  Homeless & Housing (152) | <input type="checkbox"/>  Seniors (531) |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Computers &... (64) | <input type="checkbox"/>  Hunger (149) | <input type="checkbox"/>  Sports & Recreation (93) |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Crisis Support (146) | <input type="checkbox"/>  Immigrants &... (70) | <input type="checkbox"/>  Veterans &... (121) |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Disaster Relief (18) | <input type="checkbox"/>  International (41) | <input type="checkbox"/>  Women (142) |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Education & Literacy (309) | <input type="checkbox"/>  Justice & Legal (31) | |

[CANCEL](#) [SEARCH](#)

More Volunteering Sites

- Chicagocares.org
- OneGoodDeedChicago.org

Questions?



[linkedin.com/in/bambielli/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/bambielli/)
[bambielli.com ← blog](http://bambielli.com)



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alexandrarpollack.com