

WORKING FOR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Have you considered working for a nonprofit organization? Did you know that over 10 million people work for over 1,000,000 nonprofit organizations? Read on to learn more about these organizations.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION?

*"A nonprofit is a private, self-governing organization that exists to provide a service. It does not declare a profit but uses all revenue available after normal operating expenses in service to the public interest. It can be voluntary, community-based, functional or charitable; and involved in human services, cultural programs, healthcare, education, recreation, scientific research, public policy and numerous other activities."*¹

WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS?

Boys and Girls Clubs	Habitat for Humanity	U.S. Chamber of Commerce
The College of St. Scholastica	University Day Care	American Film Institute
American Red Cross	Sierra Club	Rockefeller Foundation
Department of Natural Resources	Men as Peacemakers	National Public Radio
American Chemical Society	American Cancer Society	Catholic Aid Association
Essentia Health		

WHAT TYPES OF POSITIONS WOULD BE AVAILABLE?

As with any organization, a variety of positions are available. Accountants, marketing specialists, lobbyists, scientists, managers, educators, health professionals, editors, computer programmers, counselors and communication specialists are all jobs you would find in these organizations. Almost every position you can think of in a for-profit organization would be found in a nonprofit organization.

WHAT TYPE OF MAJOR IS NEEDED TO WORK IN THESE ORGANIZATIONS?

Although a particular position may require a certain major, there is no one specific major needed to work in these organizations. In addition to the expertise gained in your major, many organizations will also look for liberal arts skills such as critical thinking, communication ability, teamwork and leadership experience, time management and organizational skills, as well as a commitment to their organization.

AM I PAID FOR WORKING IN THESE ORGANIZATIONS?

Yes! This is the biggest misunderstanding of these organizations. "Nonprofit" is a description of the organization's financial policy not a description of the pay for the employees. Those employed at nonprofit organization earn salaries just like those who work at for-profit organizations.

WHY SHOULD I CONSIDER WORKING FOR A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION?

Positions with these organizations can be interesting, challenging, rewarding, offer opportunities for advancement and provide personal satisfaction. Many people who work for nonprofits comment that they enjoy this setting because they can work for a certain cause, for an area they feel passionate about, and in a way that they can make a difference.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ON NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS?

- Books and pamphlets are available in Career Services (T2150)
- Visit specific organization Web sites or general Web sites. Following are a select few to get you started: nonprofitjobs.org, snpo.org, idealist.org, minnesotanonprofits.org.

¹Giordani, P. "The Nonprofit World." (Summer 2003), NACE Journal.