

# Getting a U.S. Visa (B-1) to Do Volunteer Work

**A little-known use of the business visitor visa allows people to come to the U.S. to do unpaid work for a charity or religious organization.**

<http://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/getting-us-visa-b-1-do-volunteer-work.html>

If you're interested in spending time in the United States as a volunteer, you may be able to apply for a "B-1 Visitor for Business" visa. You can apply for a B-1 visa if you are a member of and committed to a recognized religious or nonprofit charitable organization and will participate in a "voluntary service program" of the organization.

If you are a citizen of a designated country (see below) and plan to complete your volunteer activities in 90 days or less, you may be able to travel to the U.S. without a visa, under the [Visa Waiver Program](#).

<http://www.visaservices.duke.edu/volunteer.html>

## Voluntary Work

<https://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20080917193401AAP1yE3>

Individuals participating in a voluntary service program which benefits a U.S. local community, who establish that they are a member of, and have a commitment to, a particular recognized religious or nonprofit charitable organization, may be eligible for a B-1 visa or visa free travel under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) if the work to be formed is traditionally done by volunteer charity workers; they will receive no salary or remuneration from a U.S. source, other than an allowance or other reimbursement for expenses incidental to their stay in the United State; and they will not engage in the selling of articles and/or the solicitation and acceptance of donations.

A voluntary service program is an organized project conducted by a recognized religious or nonprofit charitable organization to provide assistance to the poor or the needy, or to further a religious or charitable cause.

If your proposed activities as a voluntary worker are not exactly as described, you will require either an exchange visitor (J-1) or temporary worker (H-2B) visa.

Please Note: When applying for entry into the United States as a voluntary worker with a visa or under the VWP, you should furnish a letter from your U.S. sponsor which contains the following information:

- Your name and date and place of birth;
- Your foreign permanent residence address;
- The name and address of initial destination in the U.S.; and
- The anticipated duration of your assignment. **[please note this reflects there being an agreement for some period of time]**

## **Voluntary Work**

<http://www.cpvisa.com/b1b2.html>

An individual participating in a voluntary service program in a U.S. community, who is a member of, and has a commitment to, a recognized religious or nonprofit charitable organization, may be eligible for a B-1 visa if the work is traditionally done by volunteer charity workers; they will receive no salary or remuneration from a U.S. source, other than an allowance or reimbursement for expenses, and they will not engage in the selling of articles and/or the solicitation and acceptance of donations.

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## **Can a foreigner volunteer in the USA?**

<http://money.howstuffworks.com/economics/volunteer/information/can-a-foreigner-volunteer-in-usa.htm>

While working in the United States can be difficult for a foreigner, volunteering is usually pretty simple. Forget the hassle of work visas. As long as you aren't being compensated for your volunteer work, you shouldn't need one.

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<http://www.usavisanow.com/business-visas-b-1/>

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<http://www.ustraveldocs.com/jp/jp-niv-typeb1b2.asp>

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- Your foreign permanent residence address
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