

Creating the Perfect Gap Year

January 2019

What is a gap year?

Taking a “gap year” means taking a year off in between high school and college to pursue other interests. A gap year might be spent travelling or studying abroad, joining a service organization such as City Year or AmeriCorps, or simply learning to live independently in a new place. The purposes of the year are not only to get away from home and take a break from school, but also to expand the horizons of young adults by providing new and unique experiences in novel, unfamiliar locales. Some can be quite costly so research and cost comparisons are definitely necessary.

Here is a list of websites to give you ideas on what to do during your gap year, how to do it, and what programs there are to help you get there! These resources can also apply to someone taking a gap year during college or a bonus year after college graduation. Some organizations such as Teach for America and Peace Corps are more appropriate then.

General Resources:

Idealist - *Job/Volunteer Postings* www.idealist.org
Gap Year Association – *Resources & Programs* www.gapyearassociation.org
Gapyear.com – *Ideas and Deals for Your Year* www.gapyear.com
Transitions Abroad – *Jobs, Study, and Housing* www.transitionsabroad.com

Service in the United States:

AmeriCorps State and National – *Nat'l Service Org* www.nationalservice.gov
AmeriCorps– *Fighting Poverty Through Service* www.nationalservice.gov/programs
Public Allies – *Inspiring New Leaders* www.publicallies.org
Teach for America – *Teaching in Urban/Rural Areas* www.teachforamerica.org
City Year – *Volunteering in American schools* www.cityyear.org

International Service:

Habitat for Humanity Int'l – *Building Houses* www.habitat.org
Habitat for Humanity Locator - *Locate a Branch Worldwide* www.habitat.org/local
Peace Corps – *Serving in Developing Countries* www.peacecorps.gov
United Nations Volunteers – *Volunteering Worldwide* www.unv.org
We Are Bamboo – *Give-Back- Backpackers* www.wearebamboo.com
International Volunteer HQ- *Choose by Country or Type of Assignment*
www.internationalvolunteerhq.org

Volunteer Opportunities:

Volunteer Match – <i>Opportunities in your local community</i>	www.volunteermatch.org
Peacework – <i>Int'l Service in Developing Areas</i>	www.peacework.org
Projects Abroad – <i>Volunteer and Intern Abroad</i>	www.projects-abroad.org
Global Service Corps – <i>Volunteering Abroad</i>	www.globalservicecorps.org
United Planet – <i>Volunteering Abroad</i>	www.unitedplanet.org
Thinking Beyond Borders – <i>8 month program</i>	www.gooverseas.com
Volunteer Guide – <i>Outreach 360</i>	www.outreach360.org/

Jobs, Fellowships and Internships:

Studentjobs.gov – <i>Federal Gov't Jobs for Students</i>	www.usajobs.gov/studentsandgrads
The Student Conservation Assoc. – <i>Conserving America</i>	www.thesca.org
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – <i>Conserving America</i>	www.fws.gov
The Washington Center – <i>Intern in Washington, D.C.</i>	www.twc.edu
CORO – <i>Training Tomorrow's Leaders</i>	www.corofellowshipternships.org
Washington Semester Programs – <i>Study or Intern in D.C.</i>	www.american.edu
The Red Cross – <i>Non-Profit Emergency Response Org.</i>	www.redcross.org
Leapnow – <i>costly 9-month international Leapyear</i>	www.leapnow.org/
Intrax – <i>International Global Internships</i>	www.globalinternships.com

Unusual/Adventure Jobs:

Back Door Jobs – <i>Adventure Jobs in North America</i>	www.backdoorjobs.com
Cool Works – <i>Adventure Jobs in Great Places</i>	www.coolworks.com
Adventure Jobs – <i>Outdoor & Environmental Site</i>	http://adventurejobs.co
Roadtrip Nation – <i>Career Exploration on the Road</i>	www.roadtripnation.org

Other Learning Opportunities that may cost \$\$\$:

Outward Bound – <i>Semester and gap year courses</i>	www.outwardbound.org
Gap Year at Sea	www.seamester.com