

# Virtual Volunteering Opportunities

Nonprofits are the backbone of our communities – some are more visible than others in their impact and the needs they meet. While COVID-19 is affecting everyone, nonprofits are particularly feeling the pinch. They must simultaneously adjust their work environments and policies to ensure the safety and well-being of their staff and volunteers while demand for their programs and services surges beyond the scale their networks are prepared to handle. We listed virtual volunteering opportunity categories below. If you are interested in a particular category, we encourage you to investigate these opportunities by selecting one of the links in that category. As you consider the many virtual/remote volunteer opportunities available to you, please keep in mind the nonprofit organizations may be delayed in responding to your expressions of interest and/or inquiries.

## ARCHIVES, GENEALOGY & MAPS OPPORTUNITIES

- [Ancestry.com's World Archives Program \(AWAP\)](#) provides free software to its volunteers to access already-scanned images and transcribe them into a common, publicly-searchable database. The Ancestry World Archives Project's online volunteers use their passion for genealogy to help others discover their roots.
- [Carnamah Historical Society virtual volunteering initiative](#) uses online volunteers to help with transcription and indexing projects to make historical records more discoverable and searchable.
- [Map Rectifier Project](#) by the New York Public Library. This geo-rectification toolkit creates layered digital maps utilizing all the information available about a certain geography from sources as varied as Google's satellite imagery and centuries-old fire insurance land maps. Volunteers index information that records how many floors a building once had or what a street was named at different points in time, and the resulting layered digital map shows the aggregate results.
- [The National Map Corps \(TNM Corps\)](#), part of the U.S. Department of the Interior, asks citizen volunteers to collect data on structures and use it to add new features, remove obsolete points and correct data for The National Map database.
- [Missing Maps](#) is an open, collaborative project in which you can help to map areas where humanitarian organizations are trying to meet the needs of vulnerable people. TR has hosted virtual mapathons, and you can start to learn to map right away on your own through the Missing Maps digital training resources.
- [Smithsonian Archives of American Gardens](#) is an online database of thousands of images in the Smithsonian's Collections Search Center. By correctly tagging an image regarding the types of plants in the image, the structures, objects, people, or any details you notice, you help make that image more useful to professional catalogers in museums, archives and libraries.

- [The Friends of the Smithsonian Digital Volunteer program](#) engages the public in making its collections more accessible. Digital volunteers transcribe historic documents and collection records to facilitate research and preserve these valuable assets for future generations.