

Sample article for organizations to use to reach customers (344 word count)

Post the following article on your websites and/or use in other communication vehicles to provide your customers with tips if they travel for charity work.

Know these tips if you travel for charity work

Did you donate your services to charity this summer? Did you travel as part of your service? If so, some travel expenses may help lower your taxes when you file your return next year. Here are several tax tips that you should know if you travel while giving your services to charity.

- **Genuine and Substantial Duty** — Your charity work has to be real and substantial throughout the trip. You can't deduct expenses if you only have nominal duties or do not have any duties for significant parts of the trip.
- **Value of Time or Service** — You can't deduct the value of your services that you give to charity. This includes income lost while you work as an unpaid volunteer for a qualified charity.
- **Qualified Charities** — Your volunteer work must be for a qualified charity to deduct your costs. Qualified organizations must be eligible to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions. They include nonprofit groups that are religious, charitable, educational, scientific, or literary in purpose, or work to prevent cruelty to children or animals. Most groups must apply to the IRS to become qualified. Churches and governments are qualified, and do not need to apply to the IRS. *Ask the group about its IRS status before you donate.* You can also use the [Select Check tool](#) on [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) to check the group's status.
- **Out-of-Pocket Expenses** — You may be able to deduct some costs you pay to give your services. This can include the cost of travel. The costs must be necessary while you are away from home giving your services for a qualified charity. Examples of cost include:
 - unreimbursed,
 - directly connected with the services,
 - expenses you had only because of the services you gave, and
 - not personal, living or family expenses.

In addition, miscellaneous deductions can reduce your tax liability as well. These may include certain expenses you incurred during this period. You must itemize deductions when you file to claim these costs. So, if you usually claim the standard deduction, consider itemizing instead. You might pay less tax if you itemize.

You can claim allowable miscellaneous deductions on [Schedule A](#), Itemized Deductions. For more about this topic see [Publication 529](#), Miscellaneous Deductions. You can view and/or download the publication on [IRS.gov/forms](https://www.irs.gov/forms) at any time.

NOTE TO EDITOR: Below are links to helpful information.

Additional IRS Resources:

- [Tax Topic 508](#) – Miscellaneous Expenses
- [Interactive Tax Assistant tool](#) – Can I Claim My Expenses as Miscellaneous Itemized Deductions on Schedule A (Form 1040)?
- For more on these rules, see [Publication 526](#), Charitable Contributions.
- You can get it on [IRS.gov/forms](https://www.irs.gov/forms) at any time.

IRS YouTube Videos:

- Standard Versus Itemized Deductions - [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [ASL](#)
- Charitable Contributions – [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [ASL](#)
- Exempt Organizations Select Check – [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [ASL](#)

IRS Podcasts:

- Standard Versus Itemized Deductions - [English](#) | [Spanish](#)
- Exempt Organizations Select Check – [English](#) | [Spanish](#)