



Networking Tips

I want to find my networking style, where should I start?

Before you begin networking, ask yourself: are you a hunter or a farmer?

- ❖ “Hunters” run from one event to another, grabbing and passing business cards with very little interaction beyond diligently adding the card to their database. They believe that the bigger the list, the better their network. Consider the digital version of a hunter as some collecting friends on Facebook.
- ❖ “Farmers,” on the other hand, cultivate and grow authentic relationships with the people they want to include in their network. There is a steady reciprocal process of interacting so that everyone benefits.

Okay, so how can the College of Social Work help me? I’m an alumnus!

Try [OSU’s College of Social Work’s Alumni Association & Career Services](#). Here, you can find volunteer opportunities and networking services that include:

- ❖ Individual career counseling
- ❖ Individual resume reviews, interviewing techniques, mock interviews, job search, negotiating salaries
- ❖ Workshops
- ❖ Careers Network
- ❖ Email listserv for social work positions

Also, the **National Association of Social Work (NASW)**, the professional organization of social workers, has a number of ways for social workers to network, including Specialty Practice Sections that run the gamut from child welfare to social and economic justice and peace, depending on your area of concentration. NASW also provides the latest practice information, conferences and continuing education opportunities for its 145,000 members. They monitor and advocate for policies that affect social workers and their clients. All 50 states have an NASW chapter, and there is also membership with the national organization.

What else?

We suggest conferences! Attending a conference is an excellent way to network while continuing to build your skills and learning about cutting-edge practices in your field. You can consider attending

conferences of colleague organizations, particularly those that offer workshops, seminars or continuing education in your area of interest.

Let's switch gears. I love social media! How can I use it to help me network?

The **College of Social Work** has an active Facebook and Twitter page, along with our Careers Network! **NASW** hosts a LinkedIn official group page, Facebook page, Twitter feed and its own YouTube channel. Networking spaces online include social work community sites and Twitter influencers, such as **Social Work Today**, **Social Work Helper** and **Social Work Social Care Media** .

One more question: Volunteering is my passion—can that help me to network as well?

Volunteer opportunities can enhance your skills while expanding your social work network. Local social service agencies often rely on volunteers to run their food banks, read to or tutor children, staff thrift stores or prepare meals for the homeless. Well-known service organizations like the American Red Cross, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Catholic Charities or Big Brothers/Big Sisters usually rely on volunteers in their local offices. Organizations (like **the College of Social Work**) can direct you to volunteer opportunities and may themselves have networking possibilities are **Corporation for National and Community Service**, **Idealist** and **OSU's Volunteer Match**.

Do you have additional questions? Contact Katie Justice, Director of Career Services & Senior Field Coordinator at justice.228@osu.edu or Tareya Jefferies, Assistant Director of Annual Giving and Alumni Engagement at Jefferies.23@osu.edu.