

Many teens and college students look forward to their seasonal jobs to stay busy and social, earn money for savings or to offset their college costs. Given the continued unpredictability of jobs this summer due to the closure of many seasonal employment opportunities, how can I help my teen fill this void?

A: This is a time when disappointment and traditions can give way to new ideas and opportunities. While the traditional seasonal job may not be available, help your teen think outside the box. This may be a good time for teens to be of service to others. Perhaps they can find neighbors, relatives, friends and/or senior citizens who need help with grocery shopping, walking their dog, babysitting or home improvement/gardening projects. If your teen is looking for other ways to keep busy and be more independent, encourage them to give back to their community. [They can help their community by:](#) gathering clothing to donate, volunteering at a food bank, assembling brown bag lunches for local shelters, help a relative clean their home, create homemade masks, or become a pen pal to a resident at a local senior center or nursing facility