



## **Hired for the Holidays: Tips for Landing Seasonal Employment**

Whether you're short on money for Christmas presents or looking for something that could turn out to be a long-term job, the holidays are a great time to find seasonal work. Some people look at it as mindless, repetitive work unworthy of their skills and background, while others embrace a seasonal job as a chance to get their foot in the door of a company that can offer them more than a [discount](#) on merchandise during the Christmas season. As with anything, it boils down to your attitude and willingness to work hard. In truth, any job is an opportunity to make something great happen if you're open-minded and approach the situation with enthusiasm. If you're new to the seasonal hiring situation, here are a few ideas to help you prepare.

### **Hone Your Resume**

Much of the hiring process takes place online these days, but that doesn't mean a well-written and impressive [resume](#) isn't as important as ever. In fact, with so many [hiring managers](#) screening candidates based on resumes that hit their email, this is your foot in the door and your self-advertisement, as well as a chronicle of your experience. A good one can give you a leg up on other candidates and make your path just a little easier. A good resume should be [brief](#) (one page if possible), straightforward (subject-verb-object sentences), comprehensive, and make effective use of bullet points. [Research a variety](#) of examples of good resumes to get a good baseline to work from. And remember, your aim is to prove that you're qualified to perform the work involved.

## **Be an Ideal Candidate**

For most seasonal jobs, employers are looking for individuals who can learn very quickly, have an [upbeat attitude](#), can cope with stressful situations and, above all, are willing to work very hard. Hit these points hard as you go through the interview process and you'll be a very difficult candidate to turn down. Another important consideration is a willingness to work during the holiday season, such as the day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and New Year's Day. These are very busy days for many businesses, and an unwillingness to fill in can quickly turn things in someone else's favor. Besides, businesses often dismiss workers early on these days, so it might not be such a burden to you after all.

## **Ace the Interview**

Don't make the mistake of assuming that the interview will be easy because it's for a seasonal job. Hiring managers who have a lot of applicants often have to keep interviews brief, which means you might only have 10 minutes to make a great impression. [Dress professionally](#), learn as much as you can about the company, prepare [questions](#) to ask your interviewer, and practice answering some of the really [tough questions](#) employers ask. Few things impress a hiring manager more than a well-prepared candidate who aces the interview.

## **Where to Look**

Search the internet for good local seasonal jobs. Some of the best hiring websites include Indeed.com, SimplyHired.com, LinkUp.com, and Coolworks.com. These are searchable sites with plenty of filters, so you'll have no problem finding good opportunities in your area. Be thorough with the online application process and fill out every field; for instance, if it asks for a [cover letter](#) along with a resume, be sure to provide one.

A seasonal job in retail or fast food may not sound like the job of your dreams, but it could be if you approach it with optimism and as the opportunity it represents. You never know -- this time next year you could be the one asking the interview questions.

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