



Common Mistakes Made at Job Fairs

Each year thousands of job seekers swarm the floors of job fair events throughout the country searching for jobs, meeting hiring personnel and passing out resumes. This experience can be very overwhelming for job seekers. Preparing for a job fair can be the best strategy for allowing a candidate to put his/her best foot forward.

The following are the most common mistakes made by job fair attendees. By learning from each step and diligently applying the advice given, one can reap the most benefit from the job fair experience.

RUNNING OUT OF RESUMES - *Don't forget to bring enough resumes so you can leave one with each recruiter you visit.*

NOT HAVING A PLAN OF ATTACK - *Before entering the job fair location, make a list of all employers you'd like to approach. Your time with each employer representative will be limited. Plan ahead and know which employers you want to meet. If you see a recruiter is busy with a large group of people, visit another employer on the list until he or she is available.*

FAILURE TO SHOW EXPERTISE AND KNOWLEDGE OF AN INDUSTRY - *Your chances of being hired in a particular field won't be very good unless you can show you belong in it. That means using jargon and buzz words appropriate for that industry and being able to relate past experiences to the job you are seeking.*

IGNORING THE NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES THAT EXIST AT THE JOB FAIR - *Job seekers from every background imaginable will surround you and some of them have contacts or information that could get you a job. While you're waiting in line or taking a short break, be sure to strike up a conversation with other attendees.*

FAILURE TO SHOW ENTHUSIASM - *If you appear as though you are apathetic or just browsing through the job fair instead of seriously looking to land a job, you won't impress the recruiter. Try to give each recruiter the impression that his or her employer was your sole reason for attending the job fair.*

BEHAVING TOO CASUALLY WITH THE COMPANY RECRUITER - *Don't lose your guard because of the hustle and bustle of your surroundings. You should use the same formality and respect you would use at a regular interview in your conversation with a recruiter.*

BRINGING FOOD OR DRINK TO THE RECRUITING TABLE - *You also shouldn't have gum or candy in your mouth.*

FORGETTING TO FOLLOW UP WITH A THANK YOU LETTER - *The recruiters at the job fair spoke with many people, so you need a way to stand out from the crowd and be remembered. One way is to follow good interview etiquette by sending a letter to thank a recruiter for taking the time to talk to you.*

Check our Announcements page for current Job Fair dates!