

# Teen Talk

**Rabbi Uri Pilichowski**

## **What Should We Do Over the Summer?**

This summer will be like no summer we've ever experienced before. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, many of the things we love to do, camps, malls, large group tiyulim etc. aren't options. It's almost like we've been robbed of our vacation. With many options taken away, what can we do?

There's a great teaching I once read on a milk carton when I was a kid, "If you love what you do, you'll never work a day in your life." That message taught me an important lesson, find what you love to do, and find ways to do it. Think about what you love to do, (besides using your phone) then ask people you know if they know where you can do it.

It's also a good idea to help other people. Find an organization, a neighbor or someone in your community that could use your help. Carve out some time each week to help someone else. It could be something as simple as playing with a little kid in your neighborhood. Don't make the mistake of thinking that only volunteering for a big

organization makes a difference, cheering up one person by spending time with them, whether it's a local senior citizen to a small kid with nothing to do all day, makes a BIG difference.

A summer with "nothing to do" gives you a chance to pick up a skill. There are all sorts of free on-line workshops, from learning how to play a musical instrument, to painting, to even learning a new language that you can take advantage of and learn a skill for life. Can you imagine if you learned Spanish, French or Arabic this summer? With only a few hours a day investment, you could change your life forever.

This is the strangest, but most interesting piece of advice. Everyone would like a great paying summer job that can make you a lot of money. Those jobs are going to be hard to find (hard, not impossible) this summer because a lot of businesses are struggling and they're not going to be hiring new people. Here's what you can do though to get a job. Volunteer at the job you want. I know, you're thinking that if the point of getting the job was to make money, then volunteering doesn't make any sense. Hear me out. Let's say there's someone in your neighborhood with a job you're interested in and would

love to learn about, ask that person if you can volunteer for them. Tell them that no task is too small for you, making or running to get coffee or lunch, photocopying, filing, whatever it is, you're happy to do it. You'll gain valuable experience, and if you do a great job, you might even get a tip at the end of the summer. Next summer, when things, with Hashem's help, get better, they'll hire you first!

Lastly, don't forget to daven and study Torah everyday. Find a friend, a teacher or a parent and ask them if they have any time, maybe 30 minutes a week to study with you. Find a subject you like and study it. Studying Torah and davening everyday is essential to being a good Jew, and with so many shiurim on-line and so many people willing to study with you, it's so easy to do.

Also, don't forget, you're on vacation, so go to the beach a few times and relax..