How Summer Events & Gatherings Help Your Career

By: Rosa Smith-Montanaro, Training & Workshop Coordinator

Networking is one of the most important things you can do to advance your career. By meeting new people and building relationships, you can increase your visibility, learn about new opportunities, and get your foot in the door at your dream company.

Summer is a great time to network

There are many events and gatherings that take place during the summer, such as conferences, workshops, and meetups. These events provide you with the perfect opportunity to meet new people and make connections.

If you're looking to network, here are a few tips:

- **Do your research.** Before you attend any event, take some time to research the people who will be there. This will help you come up with questions and topics of conversation.
- **Be prepared.** Bring business cards with you. This will make it easy to exchange contact information with people you meet.
- **Be yourself.** Don't try to be someone you're not. People can spot a fake a mile away. Just be yourself and let your personality shine through.
- **Follow up.** After the event, send a quick note to people you spoke with that you would like to follow up. This will show that you appreciate their time and that you're serious about networking.

Networking can be a great way to advance your career. By following these tips, you can make the most of summer networking events and social gatherings.

The Key to Effective Networking

Here are a few tips for networking effectively:

- **Be a good listener.** People are more likely to remember you if you take the time to listen to them
- **Ask questions.** People love talking about themselves, so ask them questions about their work, their interests, and their goals.
- **Be positive.** People are drawn to positive people. So make sure to smile and be upbeat.
- **Don't be afraid to reach out.** If you meet someone you'd like to connect with further, don't be afraid to reach out to them after the event. Send them an email or connect with them on LinkedIn.

Networking is a numbers game. The more people you meet, the more likely you are to find opportunities that are a good fit for you. So, get out there and start networking!

Action Item

Research upcoming networking events in your area and plan to attend at least one per month. Be sure to bring business cards and follow up with any contacts you make.

Fun Fact: Did you know that networking plays a pivotal role in job opportunities? According to a survey conducted by a leading recruitment firm, a staggering 85% of job positions are filled through networking and personal connections.