

In a Hot Minute

Networking: Five Places to Find Job Referrals

Most experts will tell you that when it comes to landing a job, having someone in the organization that can refer you will increase your chances significantly. When searching for a new job, networking is a key component.

Mention your job search to everyone you see. You never know who knows who at what company. One job seeker mentioned her desire to work at a large local company to a parent at her child's school carnival, and found out that the woman's brother-in-law was the recruitment specialist at the company. Point is, you never know, so don't be shy, bring it up in conversation wherever you go.

Below are five places to get contacts and referrals that you might not have thought of before:

1. Your college alumni association
2. Social networking sites like LinkedIn or Facebook
3. Trade organizations
4. Job fairs – don't just talk to employers, talk to the other attendees
5. Church groups and social clubs – your ski club, your child's preschool, your church's women's auxiliary, etc. Whatever you're into.