

LESSON 21: Understanding Charitable Giving



Money Mastermind Lesson 21, Worksheet 1: Charity Checklist

Part 1: Charitable Interests

Find the right charity for you by recording your interests and then researching charities to match. In the table below, record your charitable interests in the left column and then research charities that match your interests, recording your findings in the middle column. After you've discovered possible charities (also known as nonprofit organizations), use the right column to explain why the organizations interest you.



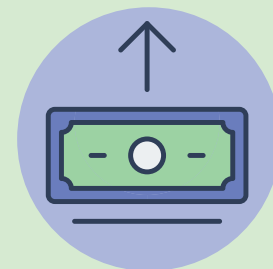
STUDENT TIP

Check out these websites to kick-start your research:

- Idealist.org
- Volunteermatch.org
- Justgive.org
- Giveback.org
- Smartgivers.org

Charitable Interests	Possible Charities	Why These Nonprofits Interest Me

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Part 2: Evaluating Credibility

Select one charity from your list above to evaluate. Using the charity's website and other web searches, complete the table below by learning as much information as you can about your charity for each of the criteria. Record your findings in the table and determine if this is the right charity for you.

To learn more about the credibility of your charity, search for it at [CharityNavigator.org](https://charitynavigator.org)

Evaluation Criteria	What Did You Learn?
"About" Page	
Contact Information	
Internet Research and Reviews	
Financial Information	
Accomplishments and Track Record	
Transparency	

Based on your checklist, do you believe this charity is credible? Why or why not?



STUDENT TIPS

What to look for:

- "About" Page: Read the "About" page and learn as much as you can about the organization.
- Contact Information and Tax ID Number: Make sure there is contact information listed on the charity's website, including a complete address, telephone number and email address. An eligible tax ID number means that the IRS has given the organization nonprofit status.
- Internet Research and Reviews: Research the charity using a search engine, read what others are saying about it and check to see if the charity has been in the news (and for what reasons—is the publicity positive or negative?).
- Financial Information: What can you learn about the charity's finances? Are they spending their money the way they say they are? Do they have a rainy day fund? Do they openly share this information with the public?
- Accomplishments and Track Record: What has the charity accomplished? Look for a proven track record and success stories.
- Transparency: Is the charity transparent with the public about what they do?

For more information visit the website of your state's Attorney General to see if it has a charity section.