

**From the desk of  
Peter S. Muffoletto, C.P.A.**

# Charity Travel

If you are traveling and that travel involves giving your services to a recognized charitable organization some of your expenses maybe deductible!

## Qualified Charities

To deduct your travel costs your volunteer work must be for a qualified charity.

The charitable organization that you are intending to help must be qualified with the IRS for your expenses to be deductible.

Most churches, and governments are qualified. (be careful of certain quack trouble seeking self-proclaimed reverends claiming to belong to some church or organization that no one has ever heard of)

You should ask the organization about its IRS status before you donate.

You can also go to the IRS website at IRS.gov and use the [Select Check tool](#) to verify organizations' status.

## Out-of-Pocket Expenses

You may be able to deduct those costs you pay to give your services.

This can include the cost of travel.

The costs must be necessary while you are away from home giving your services for a qualified charity.

All costs to qualify for deduction must be:

- Unreimbursed,
- Directly connected with the services,
- Expenses you had only because of the services you gave, and
- Not personal, living or family expenses.

## Genuine and Substantial Duty

Your charity work has to be real and substantial throughout the trip.

You cannot deduct expenses if you only have nominal duties or do not have any duties for significant parts of the trip.

### **Value of Time or Service**

You cannot deduct the value of your services that you give to charity.

This includes income lost while you work as an unpaid volunteer for a qualified charity.

### **Deductible travel**

The types of expenses that you may be able to deduct include:

- Air, rail and bus transportation
- Automobile expenses
- Lodging costs
- Cost of meals
- Taxi or other transportation costs

### **Nondeductible Travel**

If a significant part of your trip involves recreation or a vacation, no deduction is available.

On the other hand, if you want your travel completely paid for by the government, and lavish in nature, be a U.S. Senator, or Congressman, and go investigate some idiotic matter, or make one up, and the rest of us will pay for your trip at Five Star hotels, provide transportation, security, advance personnel to make sure that your trip is smooth, and extravagantly enjoyable!

Possibly you might even pretend that you have solved world problems and brought peace to the world!

Doing this on your own of course won't qualify.

In fact the government will frown on any attempts on your part to achieve world peace, cure world hunger, or poverty as they do not like competition on this subject being that they have done such a stellar job of it themselves, or so they believe, and applaud themselves.

Have a great summer!

---

Our emphasis at Muffoletto & Company is to provide you the proper guidance and understanding of the system so that you avoid taxes to the extent that the law allows.

Should you have questions relating to these matters, tax, financial, and accounting issues, give us a call at (818) 346-2160.

You can also visit us on the web at [www.petemcpa.com](http://www.petemcpa.com)!

---

**We here at Muffoletto & Company believe that the more informed you are in regards to the rules and regulations that affect you the more we can be of service.**

**Should you have questions relating to any tax or financial matters, or if you know of someone that could benefit from our assistance feel free in calling us at (818) 346-2160, or you can visit us on the web at [www.petemcpa.com](http://www.petemcpa.com)!**

**Providing individuals, small businesses, corporations, partnerships, professionals, and other business entities with the necessary guidance and answers for a complex world.**

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

The contents of this email and any attachments to it may contain privileged and confidential information from Muffoletto & Company.

This information is only for the viewing or use of the intended recipient. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of, or the taking of any action in reliance upon, the information contained in this e-mail, or any of the attachments to this e-mail, is strictly prohibited and that this e-mail and all of the attachments to this e-mail, if any, must be immediately returned to Muffoletto & Company or destroyed and, in either case, this e-mail and all attachments to this e-mail must be immediately deleted from your computer without making any copies hereof.

If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify Muffoletto & Company by e-mail immediately.

To ensure compliance with Treasury Department regulations, we wish to inform you that, unless expressly stated otherwise in this communication (including any attachments) any tax advice that may be contained in this communication is not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used, for the purpose of (i) avoiding tax-related penalties under the Internal Revenue Code or applicable state or local tax law provisions or (ii) promoting, marketing or recommending to another party any tax-related matters addressed herein.

**If you prefer not to remain on our email lists, please let us know. We will remove you as soon as you notify us.**

**You may do so by emailing us at**

**[pete@petemcpa.com](mailto:pete@petemcpa.com)**