

Ask the Career Coach: Summer Search

Don't stop looking for a job completely during the summer, but it can be a time to relax.

By [Lisa Chenofsky Singer](#)

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Dear Career Coach Lisa,

Since summer has arrived, I have lost my energy to job search. I find myself wanting to play with my kids, enjoy the weather and hang out at the pool. How can I motivate myself to stay focused and do employers really hire over the summer?

EB
Short Hills

Summer is a great season to enjoy the weather and relax a bit with family and friends. I would not suggest you stop your job search all together, but rather rearrange your schedule for the summer.

Consider arranging your schedule so you are working your job search selected hours daily or select a few days of the week that you will remain committed to networking and your job search strategy. It is important to schedule appointments with individuals that can guide you to helpful contacts. Even when you are relaxing pool side, think about who you are speaking with and informally networking with. Always carry business cards so you can exchange and follow up with an individual at a more appropriate time if the setting you are in doesn't lend itself.

Be aware of cues the individual you are speaking with provides to you in their body language or response. Asking if you can follow up with them at a later date on a certain topic gives the other individual the option to gracefully change topics or invite further discussion. Being socially aware is very important.

Remember not everyone has the same agenda so keep your agenda in mind and be mindful of the other person's agenda as well. It may be to be away from work and relaxing or he enjoys discussing work where ever they are.

As for summer hiring—this is not true. Many firms hire in the summer, so for all those who believe companies do not hire you will be one step ahead. Continue your job search efforts. Your strategy may shift based on various social engagements you have planned as the informal network is very powerful if handled properly. Going to BBQs, sporting events, town events such as concerts and other events can serve you well. Be social and enjoy. Dedicate a selected number of hours daily to your search as it will serve you well.

"Ask the Career Coach" is a column dedicated to those who may be in transition or wrestling with a career dilemma by providing a forum for advice. We welcome your questions. Please send them to CareerCoachLisa@gmail.com.

Lisa Chenofsky Singer is a Millburn-Short Hills resident and the founder of Chenofsky Singer & Associates LLC. She offers Executive and Career Management Coaching and Human Resources Consulting, writes and speaks on job search and career-related topics. Her web site is www.ChenofskySinger.com.