



A Career Bucket List

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Many people have a bucket list. This is generally a bucket list for their life and consists of adventures they want to have, places they want to see, and things they want to do, while they are still alive. Not many people have a career bucket list. For some, their general bucket list may include some career milestones, however, generally career is not something we associate with fun and adventure. For most people a career is something we need to have in order to survive. Sometimes people tell me the only purpose of their work is to earn money so they can complete items on their bucket list. Careers tend to be associated with chores, survival, necessity, routine, and responsibility.

Now a few people do think of their careers as fun and adventurous, and these mostly tend to be the innovators. If you want to make your career more fun and exciting and make work something you really look forward to, then think about having a career bucket list. A list of what you want to do before you retire or leave this life. The chances are this would make your career path a lot more fun than it usually is.

We spend so much of our lives working. Why not add some fun to it. Think about some exciting career experiences you may want to have and create a career bucket list. The following are some suggestions.

1. List a skill you really, really want to learn. If it is something you never thought you could imagine yourself doing, then even better. Perhaps you are in IT and want to learn to paint portraits. You are getting out of your comfort zone. Who knows, you may even find that this crazy skill you master pays off in your job one day.
2. Start and run a business for at least a year. Covid was one of those times when some people had to start a business. If running a business is not your thing then you can stop. But prove to yourself you can start and run some sort of business for a year. If it works out well and you find you like it, you may even want to carry on. And you have the benefit of an additional income stream.
3. Identify people you want to work with. Then create a plan to upskill yourself and build the experience and network necessary so that you can go and work with such people. They could be people you want as a leader or colleagues you want to work with on some project.

4. Perhaps it would be a dream come true if you worked for a certain company. Put that on your career bucket list. Then start taking the necessary steps to get there.
5. Maybe you want to reach a certain position or role in a company. That can be a bucket list item to go for. For some people this is a C-suite role, for others it is CEO or MD, and for others it may be a senior specialist role.
6. If you want to earn a particular income, then have that on your bucket list. Make it something challenging and go for it.
7. Perhaps working in different parts of the world would be exciting for you. Think about where you would like to work and create a list of countries you want to work in.
8. Maybe you want to change careers. You started in your career because your family or teachers said this was a respectable career. But it's not something you really love. You can, at any age, start another career. People have done it in their thirties, forties, fifties, and even sixties.
9. A career bucket list item may include developing such expertise in your field that you get invited to talk on radio or television. It may also include being featured in a business magazine.
10. Someone developed "post-it notes". Someone(s) also developed Windows (software), the creepy crawly, household cleaners, the air fryer, and other items that we use. Perhaps a career bucket list item is to develop a product that is widely used in most households or places of work.

It is easy to get stuck in a rut at work. Even people who are entrepreneurs or CEO's, who have to constantly adapt and change to ever evolving market dynamics, can still feel jaded and unmotivated by their work. Everyday life on the job is busy, it's hard, it is a lot of fighting fires and solving problems, and not so much fun and excitement. But you can make most things fun and exciting. You can inject some spark into your career. And, in doing this you can achieve some remarkable milestones. So, think about a career bucket list. If you are not sure where to start use the points suggested above. Also, think about people you know or have heard about. They may have accomplishments that you would also like to go for. Then write out your career bucket list and start working towards achieving and ticking off the items.