

The Guide to becoming a "CyberHobo"



Not All Those Who Wander Are Lost...

J.R.R. Tolkien

www.CyberHobo.com

Well you want to be a CyberHobo...

If you're reading this I assume that you are interested in becoming a Hobo or a CyberHobo. The biggest question you need to ask yourself is why and are you 100% sure? It's not as glamorous as some seem to portray it. If it's because Mom and Dad are on your ass maybe you need to rethink it and suck it up. If it's because you are afraid of a little hard work forget it. The people who say it's easy are the ones who've never been living on the road. I'm not saying there is not a great adventure ahead but sometimes the road can be a little bumpy. There are typically two situations that are happening, one is the road is calling you and the other is you're being kicked out and no place to go. Let us hope it's the first. Remember you're choosing to be houseless not homeless. A CyberHobo is not someone that begs or steals; a CyberHobo is on an Adventure traveling around living as frugal as they can. We still work, even if it's just enough to survive. If it's only a couple of weeks your heading out for it's no big deal but if it's a long road ahead then you'll need to prepare.... prepare.... and prepare.

Remember the differences:

A **Hobo** is a person that travels to work

A **Tramp** is a person that travels and won't work

A **Bum** is a person that will neither travel nor work

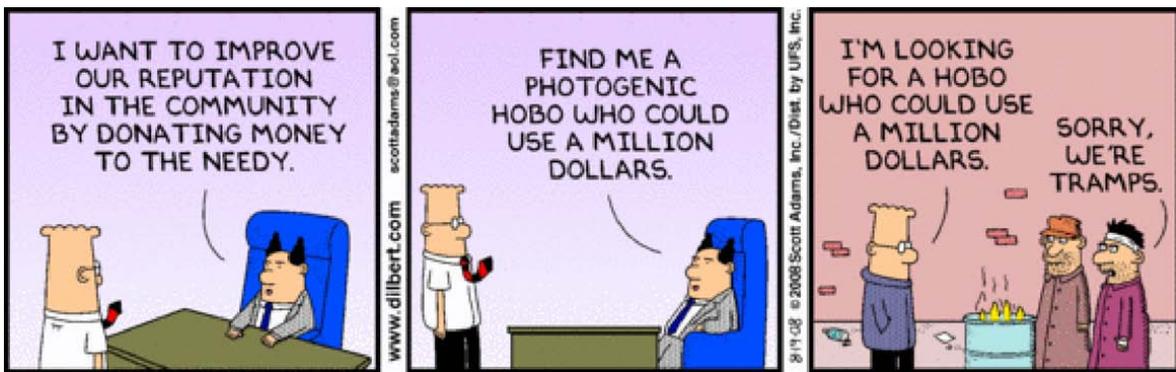
A **CyberHobo** is a person who travels and works, but most of all has a lot of fun! A

CyberHobo's work is on computers, internet, writes, gives speeches, etc. (whatever for money)

You also have the houseless and homeless. They're a mix of the bunch. Some just like the carefree lifestyle and choose to live in their vehicles (rubber tramps). I typically think of houseless is someone who chooses a carefree lifestyle, couch surfing, camping, etc. A homeless is someone who's lost everything and given up hope. They are not all bad but the homeless category has some real crazies. Keep in mind that they're not acting... they're dam crazy, avoid them at all cost. You'll also come upon leaches. They're the ones who want to be your best buddy and suck up all your resources, another group to avoid. If you team up with someone make sure they are bringing something to the pot. If not, they'll come to depend upon you for the existence. I've also heard them called energy suckers, or bitches.

What can you offer someone that has a value to it? You're going to have to work hard and do whatever you need to do in order to make some money. You should always be living on last weeks money. You are not going to get off work and go home to mama's home cookin' and sleep in an air-conditioned room in a nice soft bed either. You'll get off work and figure out where you are going to set up camp, try to figure out how to clean up, and wonder what's for dinner. You'll be hassled by the police and sometimes ask to leave town. If you're sleeping in the woods you'll probably be rousted up in the middle of the night and told to get out. People will point fingers at you and shun you. You'll be called names, such as bum, beggar, homeless, and etc. You may even be physically attacked.

I'm not saying this to discourage you but to let you know what you'll be facing. If you're deciding to 'Hit the Road' because you're too lazy to work.... DON'T! Every day is new and exciting. Some days everything will go your way and the next nothing will. You'll make some lifetime friends and a few enemies along the way. Go with the attitude that it's an adventure and a journey of a lifetime. Be a HOBO and not a homeless bum or crack head. Stay off the drugs and limit your booze to what you can handle. People can tell the difference between someone on an adventure and someone begging for drug money. Be careful and keep your distance from the bad ones as well. They will rob you for everything you have or worse. They're not your friends and are not like you, they'll sell their bodies for a few bucks or a little piece of crack.



Before you let the door hit you in the ass...

A suggestion from me is to open a free checking account with a debit card. You can have money deposited in the account and withdraw it from an ATM machine if necessary so you won't have to carry much cash around with you. Some type of residual income would be awesome! Maybe disabilities check, unemployment check, workers comp, anything that could bring some income to you.

Sell everything you own, except the items that you taking with you. **DO NOT GIVE ANYTHING AWAY!** Getting \$2.00 out of a CD could be dinner for a couple of nights. Since you're getting ready to hit the road work every chance you can. Cut grass, rake leaves, collect cans, run errands, whatever you can do. If nothing else hit the day labor services and bank everything you can. Eat off of friends, family, church members, and whoever else you can till the day you hit the road. Get some practice in and do a little dumpster diving. If possible have a few hundred dollar nest egg set aside and forget about that money, if an emergency happens you'll have a little money saved. Bank as much as you can and try to get a wad of cash in your pocket before you leave. A guy once emailed me and said he worked it so that he drew unemployment for 6 months while he started his Hoboing! Within time it gets easier, it not the living it's you.

Whenever you're at a place for awhile, go apply for some food stamps. \$150 worth of free food will go a long way! Typically if you walk in and tell them you're homeless they can hand you a card on the spot. Try to befriend someone to use their address so they can forward any mail that you get from them. If not try to send it to a local homeless shelter.

Make a list of everything you need and start gathering it up. Start thinking like a hobo; don't pay for nothing unless you absolutely have to. Always try and work everything off, such as food and lodging. Work on your personality, that's going to feed you many a day. You need to be a friend to everyone. You also need to learn how to let things roll off you as well. You'll be called names, made fun of, and sometimes possibly attacked. Don't take it personally, tell them you're taking some time to travel and see the U.S. or world.

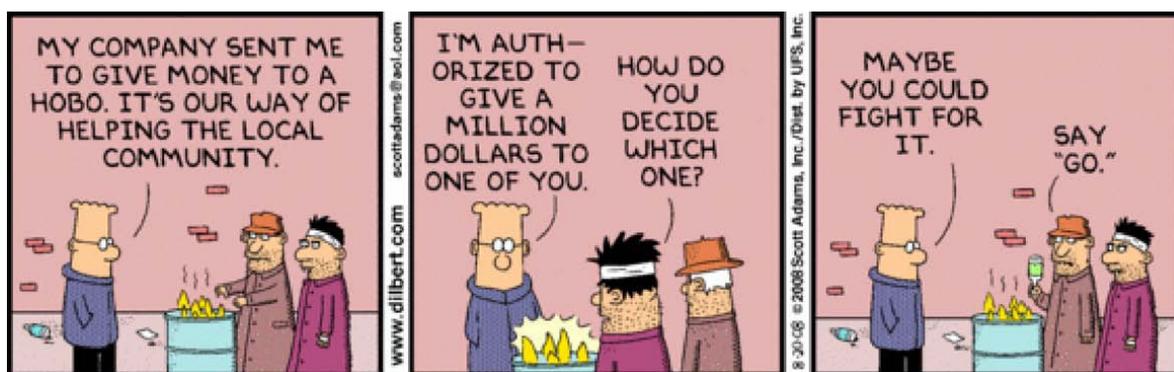
I assume you're going to try and be a CyberHobo? A CyberHobo is someone who travels and makes a living using the internet or at least subsidizes their income from the internet. Get a domain name and hosting service for your website. Yes, you will need one and for what it cost it'll more than pay for itself. I'll talk later about it. (You'll even want some business cards)

Get an address book and start gathering information. Get any and all family members name, phone numbers, addresses, and email address. Get with friends and see if they know of anyone that would give you a spot in their yard for a couple of nights. Network as much as you can and have them notify the people to let them know you might stop by, and let them know you're an OK person. You'd be surprised how many invites you might get back having a "where I'm at know" page on your website. Once they have read your journal and know you're an OK person they may decide having you around to help out for a few days is to their advantage.

Decide your traveling method. Are you planning on the old fashion method of hopping trains? I guess some do but some drive automobiles (Rubber Tramps), bicycles, motorcycles, and some just walk. I like the motorcycle, it's cheap, versatile, and gives you the feeling of the old west. It's a serious crime to jump trains, plus it's very dangerous, I don't recommend anyone doing that anymore. A good motorcycle can get about 50-60 miles per gallon and with the price of gas that'll be a big chunk of your wages. If you ever have to beg, people are more apt to give a gallon of gas than money. That one gallon gets you 50 miles farther down the road, so look for something to make money at before running out again.

Stay as clean as possible - parks and truck stops offer showers, if nothing else sponge bath in a sink, with soap. People will associate with someone who is clean and smells decent quicker than they will when you're dirty and smelly. Being a CyberHobo or homeless doesn't mean you need to smell like a wet dog. Personal hygiene will go a long way in getting you some money. You still need to brush your teeth a couple times a day, use deodorant, and buy some cheap cologne. Never leave your family and friends on bad terms, ask for forgiveness or apologies before hitting the road. It's very possible it's the last you will ever see some of them or them see you. When your road ends you'll figure out that they are all that really matters.

Establish a Plan B. This is a serious, life-altering decision. Don't abandon everything suddenly and disappear. You need something to come back to if your life on the road doesn't work out. Make sure all your debts are paid and responsibilities are handled before departure. If possible, have some savings set aside before you go, that you can access while you're on the road, if needed. Emergencies happen, and they cost money. This lifestyle is not for everyone, and most end up missing the regular comforts of life. You may not sleep in a real bed for months, and may only get a full shower once weekly.



The List...

You'll get a lot of different recommendations here; this would be a dream list. But here are a few things... (Remember plan, plan & plan)



1. Motorcycle - Honda or Kawasaki (cheap and good maintenance records), install a cigarette lighter = power supply. (cigarettes are too expensive - quite smoking) Make sure the motorcycle is serviced with some good tires on it.
2. Good traveling bags. You can't have too much room.
3. Good Tent - Eureka Backcountry 4 is a good tent, light and durable. Plus you can set this tent up in under 2 minutes. I'd get a 4 person tent because this will be your house. Also, it's very important to get a couple bottle of seam sealer and seal the tent ...extra well.
4. Maybe a Hennessey hammock, beats sleeping on the ground sometimes. Plus there are a lot of nights it's a lot easier and more stealth to just use the Hennessey. Or at least you'd better get a good ThermaRest bed mat. – You will figure out what I'm saying after a few weeks on the road.
5. Stove - Coleman makes a multi-fuel stove; you never know what type of fuel you'll have. You can always siphon some from bike when needed. Single burner propane stoves work pretty well and a tank of gas last a couple of months.
6. Candle Lantern - with several spare candles
7. Sleeping Bag - get a good one, this is your bed! Some people just like to use a couple of blankets. You'll figure this out.
8. Supplies - Hobo silverware, can opener, mess kit, zip lock bags, first aid kit, tarp, books, small hammer / hatchet, tools, Swiss army knife, small flashlight, shaving kit, vest, hat, water bottle, some emergency canned food (spam and rice/ramen noodles), boots, shower shoes, lighter, water bottle, Aluminum foil, magnifying glass, good motorcycle bags, bungee cords, and fuel canister. (GSI Outdoors 10 inch Cast Aluminum Dutch Oven – 2 quarts)
9. Laptop Computer - try and get one with a 2 or 3 year good warranty. 2 extra batteries. (I'd also carry a deck of cards) If you can't swing the laptop remember all public libraries are free. They have internet access so have everything written down before you walk in. Some only allot so much time for you on their computers.
10. Domain Name with hosting services, so you can record your journals. Domain names are \$12.00 per year at godaddy.com. Let me know if you need hosting for you domain name. I'll host for CyberHobo's for \$5.00 per year, OR for a few pages at you.cyberhobo.com it's \$2.50 per year. webmaster@cyberhobo.com a website... it's a must.
11. Journal and a cheap digital camera with extra batteries.
12. As much Cash as you can gather up. Sell everything you can on eBay and have a good yard sale before you leave. Ask friends / family if they'll sponsor you on your journey. If it's just \$1.00 per week through a PayPal account, 50 family/friends is an extra \$50.00 per week and typically people will give you a \$1.00 a week to follow your travels. Try and email the people that do sponsor you and let them know you appreciate it and let



them know how you are doing and where you're at. Even an email message mass mailed to everyone will do work. Always hand over a card with a smile!

HINT: The better your journal entries are, the better your donations are.

13. An address book with every family member, and family members of their friends and family around the country, friend, friends of friends, etc... That you can get together. Get their addresses, numbers, and email. (A backyard, extension cord, and water-hose will look like a Park Avenue Hotel once you've been roughing it for a few weeks.) Make everyone you meet a friend and give them a business card. You may want to have your family and friends give their contacts a heads up you may show up looking for a yard to stay in. Plus they'll know you're a traveler and not some homeless person showing up for handouts. (***electronically back this up at your web server – critical***)
14. Join a motorcycle club... a lot of fellow bikers will throw you some work and a room or place to pitch a tent. Plus when you're in need of repairs, they're good people. Plus you can make some bucks detailing someone's bike. I know people that pay someone \$80.00 per bike. That could take several hours but that's living money for days. While on the internet watch for motorcycle events, most of them need extra help during the events and you'll have an opportunity to do a little partying. Look at the Re-Treads, SCRC, Christian Motorcycle Club, etc.
15. Business Cards... huh? Oh yea business cards! Have your Name / Handle, website, email, and maybe a slogan ... "Will Work for Food" as a gimmick. At least 500 black and white. It gives you a little credibility and will allow people you meet the opportunity to follow your travels and hopefully they'll become a sponsor of you.
16. Get some fishing line and hooks. You can make a homemade cane pole and have fresh fish for dinner. That and some pan fried corn bread is an awesome dinner, and extremely cheap too. (watch out for states with a fishing license)
17. Get one and learn exactly what that 'Swiss Army Knife' is for.
18. A good map, a nice one because you'll use it many a day.
19. Be careful about weapons. You'll get arrested in some places carrying one. Use the hatchet if needed and it's logical to be carrying one if you're camping.
20. Hmm... a cell phone? If you get with a family member or friend that can get you one on their plan it'll only cost them an extra \$9.99 per month, or \$12.50 with taxes. If you only call people on the same service (Verizon) mobile to mobile is NO CHARGE. The people on the same service can relay a message for you to someone who isn't on the same service. Plus if there is an emergency you'll have a cell phone. Think about an extra battery, just in case.
21. Most Important!!! The Best / Friendliest / Positive attitude there is! This one thing will mean you go hungry or feast many a night. While on the internet work the Delphi Forums / Facebook / Flickr / Twitter / Pinterest / and a Blog, ask if anyone has work or places to camp at or any ideas on making money while hoboing. A lot of motorcyclist will offer a couch or shed to sleep in with a garden hose shower. You may even get a tour of the town and introduced to other motorcyclist. You'll be amazed how many offers of dinner and coffee you'll get. Return the favor and invite them to stop by your campsite for some coffee and sweet rolls. You'll have to learn how to make campfire coffee and drink it black.

Where are you going to sleep? Unless the place you work can offer shelter, you will have to sleep in an urban camp, squat in an abandoned building, or stay in campground, hostels or motels. Another option is using the Communities Directory online to find urban co-ops, land trusts, and other alternative housing arrangements, which often welcome guests. See directory.ic.org. Yet another option is a traveler's network such as couchsurfing.com or globalfreeloaders.com, which offers free lodging to those who intend to contribute. Consider the costs and dangers associated with each, when in doubt find another option.

Some Example, Inexpensive cards



The cards are more of a gimmick than anything else. Someone with a card is a lot more creditable than someone without one? Plus it gives someone access to your information in case they decide to throw you a couple of bucks later. A PayPal account is a very nice thing sometimes. Whenever you get the chance to strike up a conversation with someone hand them a card. Maybe spend a little more and take a photo of yourself on the road with a pack. Remember you're a traveler and most people like and envy travelers. Tell everyone to keep tracking you at you website to see where you're at.

Some ideas on how to make some money...

Work! Instead of asking for food or handouts, ask what work you can do in exchange for food / supplies. Nobody likes a Bum, but Hobos don't ask anything for free. (Most of the time it will be though) You can do web-design, sell items on eBay, hobo nickels, cut grass, day laborer, anything you can. I have known CyberHoboes to keep an online journal / documentary and ask for sponsors through PayPal. Some people will throw you a few bucks every now and then to follow your journey through your journals. Take some photos for a photo journal. Get some tools and start practicing on Hobo Nickels; they bring a minimum of \$10.00 on eBay. The Hobo nickels could give you about a \$9.25 or more profit per nickel, and then get a PayPal Credit Card. Do some wood carvings or find something that can be sold on the internet or eBay. One CyberHobo even said he spent some money and put himself in the newspaper and asked for sponsors. He said it was worth it and made some good friends who follow his progress. Make sure you put a web address with it to give them more information when they visit. Also, do up a mailing list and email ALL your family and friends to give them a heads up on what's going on with you.

It may be a good idea to market your services to family and friends. Make them a list of what you have to offer;

1. cut grass
2. Networking (wireless, LAN, etc.)
3. photo editing
4. general laborer
5. wood working
6. Detail autos and motorcycles
7. web design
8. graphic design
9. photography
10. auto mechanic / small engine repair
11. house maintenance
12. gardening

Letting them know in advance what you have to offer will often get your foot in the door. A couple days of house maintenance will get you a week of free room and board while you tour the area. When you get that feeling of having worn out your welcome, you have. Pack your bags, say you goodbyes, ask could you stop in again on down the road and leave. Always think of what could you learn that would be valuable to others and what are they in a need of. Get some books and start reading. An example would be photo scanning. You set in front of a computer and scanner and scan in all their old family photos, if you have Photoshop you can even clean them up for them. They get their old photos electronically stored and cleaned up and you can even get a copy. Then put them in a slideshow and have them invite their family over for a walk down memory lane. Maybe the rest of the family will want the same service and you could room/board and ride away with more money than you came with.

eBay

There is always eBay. People always have a bunch of stuff to sell on eBay they just don't want to take the time to do it. Offer to take photos, write a description, and put it on eBay. When it sells you get a percentage and they ship. Let the money come to your account and then you give them their percentage back. I've collected tree seeds on the side of the road and sold them on eBay. 100 seeds sell for \$3.00 and only take 5 minutes to collect. They are small enough to collect and carry on a motorcycle until you sell them. If you're in a wooded area you can also collect tree seedlings to sell, if you plan on being somewhere for a couple of weeks or so.

Writer

I read of a homeless man who contacted a small rural newspaper and offered to write a weekly column about the homeless in America, at no charge. They agreed and as he wrote the column (which was a page from his journal) he always tagged his email address to it. He said he got about \$35 - \$50 per week in donations. Plus he said that he has at least a month of room and board and plenty of work while traveling through that part of the country every year. He is doing a book and is marketing it through his weekly column. He plans to sell autographed copies in the newspaper parking lot. He's in hopes of enough money for a newer used van, and a month of expenses. He's also marketing different radio stations for interviews, or a daily segment on homeless people.

Migratory Work

There is a lot of migratory work around the country. Picking oranges, apples, grapes, blueberries, etc. will keep money in your pockets. It's probably some of the hardest work and pays less than minimum wage most of the time. But when you have a cash flow problem it's always a possibility.

Farm Hand

There are a lot of small farmers out there who seasonally need help with farm work. Ask around to see if there are any local farmers who'll trade and good camping area, water hose, food, and a few bucks for help. Many small farmers can't afford much but they can provide you with food and water and might have a few bucks to throw you. You won't make much but you're living free with no expenses. Plus you can make some friends, maybe do laundry and exchange some books. (And most likely leave with enough food for a couple of days)

House Sitter

Market everyone for your house sitting services. A lot of people want to go on vacation that have pets and/or don't want to leave their homes empty. If you are in the area and they are your family / friends offer to house sit. They feel safer about leaving their homes and pets and you have free private accommodations for awhile. Gives you a chance to total download, service, repair, and clean everything. You can also pursue other business opportunities while you're on guard. A clean house and freshly cut yard upon their return will almost guarantee accommodations on you next trip through town.

Publisher

Keep a journal and digital photos and try and write a book. I've bought several books from Hobo's about their adventures. It's possible to sell some of the photos as well so make sure you copyright them. If you can sell two \$5.00 eBooks per day that's 1/2 of your living expense right there.

Photographer

Maybe you won't be a famous or great photographer but maybe you can make a few bucks at it. Advertise to follow a family around all day and take photos of them. They get some good photos of the family as a whole and you get a day of fun and typically food as well. Even if you only charge \$25.00 for the day, you're out \$0 and walk away with the next day expenses. After spending the day with them you will have made some new friends.

Another approach is when it's getting towards dark and you're looking for a spot to sleep stop and farms and ask if they'd mind if you take some photos of their property and trees. Most people will say yes and then tell them you'll share the photos with them. A business card will really help your creditability. Take some photos and as it's getting dark ask if they wouldn't mind if you camped on the property to take some morning photos. This will typically get you a free campsite and probably a free dinner, and maybe breakfast.

The same concept will work for any type of gathering, church cookouts, parties, family reunions, and etc. Explain that you're a photographer and would like to take different photos of the events. If nothing else you'll get a meal and meet a few people. Again that's were the business cards come in handy. Ask if they know of anyone needing odd jobs done to pass your card along.

Dog Trainer

You may not be an expert but read a book and practice. Most people won't expect miracles after a few days but if you can teach the dog to come, sit, lay, and maybe fetch that'll be worth a few bucks and room / board. From what I've seen and read about dog training it being persistent. Most people want to spend 5 minutes and give up on the dog.

Treasure Hunting

Hmm... now this probably sounds real odd. It's hard to do on a motorcycle even when the metal detector will break apart. But it's a good excuse to stop and talk to people. Let people know you'll show them anything you find on their property. Most treasure hunters will typically say they've found some ring, coins, artifacts, buttons, old tools, and other valuable items. A gentleman told me that he finds at least \$20 - \$100 a day in treasures. Watch for new construction where they've moved the dirt around or freshly plowed fields. Also, keep an eye open for arrow heads and points. That'll bring you a day of expenses.

I've watched a couple of T.V. shows about treasure hunters and they've shown areas and sites where you pay \$5 or \$10 and that allows you to pan for gold, diamond, emeralds, and other valuables. It showed that some people did it for a living. I'm not sure if I'd want to do it for a living but it would be interesting to work it for a couple of weeks. Ya never really know how your luck is going to be until you try. The finds are pretty small and again something you could carry on a motorcycle.

Yard Sales

As you touring along stop by private yard sales and see if there any treasure to be found. Being you're limited on what you can carry the items need to be small. Old broken gold jewelry can be melted down. Others things to look for are old bottles, old Avon bottles, coins, stamps, 1st edition books, old comics, depression glass, and other collectables. Get an eBook to get an idea of what you need to be looking for. Old bottle can be valuable to a lot of people as well. You can sell these at antique stores or eBay.

Work off Commissions

You can make money from products of others. If you see a good product or know of a service offer to sell it for a percentage of the sale. You're out nothing, but could make a good percentage of something. A fellow motorcycle hobo said he broke down next to a car that was for sale. The owner of the car stopped by and he ask how much he wanted for car. The guy said \$1000 but would take \$900. He then asked if he sold it could he have anything above \$950, which the guy agreed. Within just a few minutes after the gentleman leaving a family stopped looking for their son his first car. He talked a little smack and sold the car for \$1,200. He called the owner and told him people are waiting with the money. He made \$250 dollars for repairing his own motorcycle. If you see a good deal on a vehicle offer to set beside it and sell it for a cut of the money. Most people hate to negotiate and don't want to set there. Worst that is going to happen is you're there for a couple of days and not make anything. But if you have a tarp and a chair could be working on other things. (Update you website or working eBay) You might even be able to camp in the back seat of the car if needed.

The same guy works 1 month every year at a produce stand for a farmer. The stand is on the edge of the farmer's property and he gets a percentage of sales. He also has a spot to camp, electricity and a water hose. He said he always uses that extra income to service his motorcycle and new tires, brakes, and any else that needs replacing. He's off at 5:00 each day so he explores

and relaxes. He also has the fringe benefit of having access to all the fruits and vegetables he can eat. He spends a couple of weeks at a Christmas tree farm further south doing pretty much the same thing.

Other Commission Work

I stopped at this trailer parks entrance to cool off and get some water. I noticed a lawn maintenance guy with his truck and trailer parked there as well. I asked him how it was going and did he need any help. He thanked me but said NO that he only had a few yards to do there. They were pretty small lots so I asked how much he charged. He said, about \$10 dollars for a cut. I asked him if I walked door to door and sold jobs for him would that be worth \$10 for every account I got. He said, sure and gave me every business card out of his truck and wallet, probably about 40 total cards, so off I went. After about 4 hours and a lot of talking I called him and told him I had 4 accounts plus another 3 good maybes and had left other cards on the doors for people not home with a message on each one. He met me at the store and I gave him all the information for him to go cut the 4 yards. I told him to go cut the yards and meet me back at the store when he was done. A couple of hours later he pulled up and gave me \$50, an extra \$10 because they wanted him every week from then on. I thanked him and gave him my card and said if the others called he could send the money to my PayPal account. I didn't really know if anyone else would call or if he'd remember me but within a few days I noticed a \$60 deposit into my account and a email saying, "Thank You" that he'd gotten 6 other yards from people who mentioned my name or the message I'd left for them. I guess he ended up with an extra 10 yards per week and I had \$110.00 (minus the PayPal charges), so it worked out for the both of us.

His name was Russ Hombauer and said he'd looked at my website. He told me the next time I came through he had a truck camper in his back yard I could stay in and he'd ordered 1000 cards. Said I could pass out cards and sleep in the trailer and he'd make sure I ate dinner every night, for a week or two. Our paths never crossed again but who's to say one day they won't.

Christmas Time (Thanksgiving to New Years)

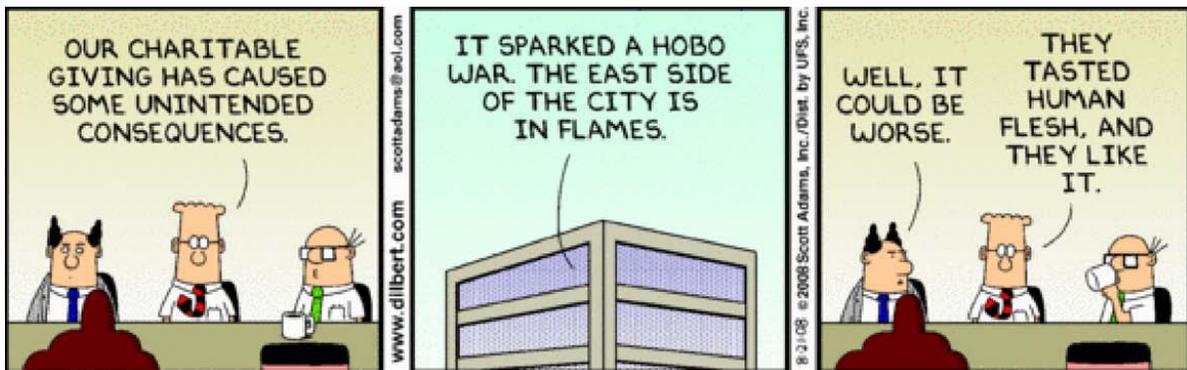
Some people go all out with Christmas decorations as well. A lot of people and churches have so much money invested in the decorations they need security on site. You camp on site for free and pick up a few extra dollars for really doing nothing. Also, setting up the decorations could bring in some money. People spend a lot of time and money on decorating their homes. Again you won't get rich but you can fill your tank, eat a few meals, and maybe get a porch to sleep on for the night. If you find a security job for the night (sleeping on site) you have all day to scope out other potential income opportunities. People become very generous around the holidays. Then after the holidays are over there is the dreaded breakdown and clean-up.

Medical Field (CNA)

A lady I know has her Certified Nursing Assistant license (CNA). She works through a temporary agency and gets paid \$13 an hour, and can typically work as many hours as she wants. Picking the hours she wants to work. You'll have to get a license for this and keep it up-to-date but if you're going to be in a certain state during the winter months it's a way to save a bunch of bucks and take a month or so off and just tour each year. Plus as you work in that certain state you can tour that whole state during that time period. Spend a week in each part and see the area and local sites. A few months a year hard work could pay for at least 6 months of Hoboing.

Again keep in mind you always want to be working for next week's expenses. When you get ahead that's when you want to add to savings. Even CyberHobo's like a vacation every now and then. LOL

Keep in mind most people will not like you at first. Most people don't like anyone new until they get to know them. Have a gimmick (Hoboes don't wear those hats because they pretty), business card, talk some good B.S. and let them know you're not a threat. Most people will shun you and are afraid of you at first. (It's those Bums that did that) Learn to juggle, play musical instruments, make balloon animals, or do some card tricks.



Website and Domain name...

You're probably thinking, why the hell a hobo would need a website. That's an easy one to answer... you're in the 21st century! If they were available 100 years ago they'd had one to. Think about having a website and marketing your services and yourself. Now you can ask for donations, keeping in contact with family and friends, sell photos, work eBay, sell an eBook, keeping a journal, looking for contacts, and etc. All of a sudden instead of being looked at as a bum you're some type of Indiana Jones on an Adventure. Public libraries are free and have internet access. If you're serious about being a CyberHobo you'll need a computer though. (Camp near hotels with Wi-Fi)



1. You will need a domain name. Mine is CyberHobo.com (godaddy.com < \$12.00 per year or so with a coupon - search Google for coupons)
2. You need someone to host it for you. Do an internet search on web host. I'll host CyberHobo sites for \$5.00 per year; it is only for Hobo sites and not a business site. I can do it for \$2.50 per month for a sub-domain name, you.cyberhobo.com as a web address. I'm trying to recover my basic cost that's it. The more accounts I get the less I need to charge someone.
3. A freeware web-design program (tucows.com)
4. A freeware photo editor program (tucows.com)
5. Get a free account at flickr.com as well – they give a terabyte of space for photos at NO cost.
6. I would also set-up a YouTube account. You can make videos with your camera and a lot of people use youtube. Do real Campfire videos each week telling of what happened over the last week in your life with little video clips of it. If you become 10th famous on youtube that translates to full living expenses. \$1000 per month... hmm... new motorcycle, camera, computer, tent. You'll be the Rich Hobo!
7. Also, answer any and all emails people send you. Just say Hello and be courteous, ya never know if you'll need a nice yard to sleep in next year. This brings up the point of never burn any bridges. You may think that you'll never be that way again but life has a funny way of making paths cross more than once. I've heard of people traveling North to South and then back North along the same road each year. Stopping by twice a year is not wearing you welcome out. Plus if you know them well enough it'll be nice to store your winter stuff so you don't have to carry it with you. Plus you'll need to do some maintenance every now and then.

Some things to expect...

After you get moving for the day the next thing on your mind is where are you going to sleep next and where is the next meal coming from. How can you eat and sleep without spending any money.

Of course go north for the summer and head south for the winter. Plan ahead and try to prepare you trip. You can live VERY well on \$20.00 per day, that's \$600 per month. Actually you could do it for a lot less. But I always liked 13 days in the tent and 1 day at a Hotel. Every 14th day in a hotel will allow you to shower, wash cloths (in the tub if needed), watch some news, update website and download email, and you can get a good night's sleep. Always have your email messages and updates ready when you get to the hotel so you're not wasting valuable relaxing time typing messages. Of course always take advantage of the continental breakfast, taking enough for the next day's breakfast. Sometimes you can stop by the hotel and go in to ask the price and then use the restroom and take advantage of any free cookies, fruit, coffee. If you can't swing a hotel check into a camping ground. There you have showers, washers and dryers, and some chances to make some friend and mooch-a-meal. If you stop and see some local teens ask them where there is a safe and out of the way place to camp. More than likely they'll be able to give you some directions to a campsite.

Also, when you get close to cities ask about soup kitchens. You'll have to listen to some preaching and pray a little but you'll eat well. The goal is to always have more money in your pocket at the end of the day than you started with. But remember NEVER pay for something unless you absolutely have to, work it off first. Make a game out of it and see how cheap you can live each day and keep a recording of it.

A lot of times you'll be able to find work somewhere cutting grass, odd jobs and get free food, place to pitch a tent, electric, water hose, and a few bucks! –

Miscellaneous Advice...

You never know how long you'll be stuck in the tent during a rain storm so carry emergency food, and a few books with you, you might have to spend days at a time in the tent. Toilet paper is a very good thing to have as well. If you're in a campground offer to help anyone that you see that could use some. 10 minutes worth of work may provide you with a free dinner.

Watch out for the bad ones... they're a lot of crazies out there! Men have a hard time but women need to be extremely cautious. Don't trust anyone and be careful of the, "I'm so concerned about you" guys. When dumpster diving be extremely careful. There are some pretty dangerous things in the dumpster and you may be invading someone else dumpster that they claimed. After closing time, check the restaurants, grocery stores, and retail stores dumpster to see if there is anything of value. Donut shops always have stale donuts in their dumpster.

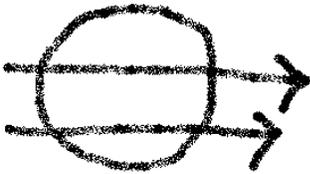
Wander wherever you like. You should find camping in most wooded areas, and your only responsibilities are earning enough for food (which can be cheap if you try), clothes, vehicle

maintenance and emergency savings. You need to learn to be discreet, quick, and cautious so that you never get caught. If you stay very close to civilization, you won't have to worry as much about wildlife. Also the trick is picking the right spot so you will be invisible to others.

Hobo Signs....

Something every Hobo has to know!

In a predictable casual way, the hobo fraternity looked after its own. One of the most interesting examples of this was the hobo custom of chalking crude symbols on barns, fence posts, sidewalks, and water tanks so that the hobo who came after could tell what sort of reception they could expect. The samples here represent a few of the dozens of hieroglyphs that indicated to the hobo whether he was more likely to receive a sandwich or a round of bird shot when he hit town.



Leave quickly



OK for a handout



Kind lady lives here



OK to camp here



Man with gun lives here



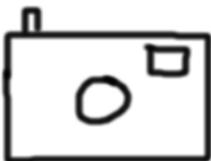
Dangerous Place



well stocked bathroom



Good Dumpster



You're on Camera



Open Wireless Network

The 21st Century Cyber- “Hobo Code”

The original “Hobo Code” was inscribed in the Annual Convention Congress of the Hoboes of America held on August 8, 1894 at the Hotel Alden, 917 Market St., Chicago Illinois;

(This set of Codes have been Modified from the originals for CyberHobo’s)

1. Decide your own life, don't let another person run or rule you.
2. When in town, always respect the local law and officials, and try to be a gentleman at all times.
3. Don't take advantage of someone who is in a vulnerable situation, locals or other hobos.
4. Always try to find work, even if temporary, and always seek out jobs nobody wants. By doing so you not only help a business along, but insure employment should you return to that town again?
5. When no employment is available, make your own work by using your added talents at crafts.
6. Do not allow yourself to become a stupid drunk and set a bad example for locals treatment of other hobos.
7. When staying in town, respect handouts, do not wear them out, another hobo will be coming along who will need them as bad, if not worse than you.
8. Always respect nature, do not leave garbage where you are camping.
9. If in a community camp, always pitch in and help.
10. Try to stay clean, and boil up wherever possible.
11. When traveling, respect other people's property, and mind your own business. When someone tells you it time to leave... leave.
12. Do not cause problems in a campground; another CyberHobo will be coming along who will need a play to stay. Offer to work your stay off.
13. Do not allow other hobos to molest children, expose to authorities all molesters, they are the worst garbage to infest any society.
14. Help all runaway children, and try to induce them to return home.
15. Help your fellow hobos whenever and wherever needed, you may need their help someday.
16. If present at a hobo court and you have testimony, give it, whether for or against the accused, your voice counts!

Hobo Poetry

Hoboes wrote these poems to read while in the Hobo Jungles.... Some are very unique.

A New Breed of Hobo

Most of the old Hobo's
Have caught the Westbound and are gone
A new breed of Hoboes are emergine
CyberHobo's are alive and strong!

We have that same wanderlust
as our brothers of yesteryear did in their time
To hit the road a runnin'
And leave everything behind

We travel with our computers, websites, and blogs
working our way while travelin'
takin' our backpacks, brains, and cellphones
and some even take their faithful ol' dogs

So when you see us out there
remember we're brothers with the same callin'
So put on the coffee, soup and good story
And afterward we'll Thank God
for keeping us safe while Travelin'

Hobo Care

I don't care if it rains or freezes
I'll be safe in the arms of Jesus
I can lose my shirt and britches,
He'll still love us sons of bitches

Granddad I want to be a hobo
That's what I want to do
Help me if you can, when I get to be a man
I want to be a hobo too.

Traditional Hobo Verse.

You can be a CyberHobo by choice. With just a few thousand dollars and some determination to get started with, you will be able to prepare yourself for a life on the move without having to barely scrape by. I know it sounds like a lot of money, but if you're wanting the lifestyle of a CyberHobo and not a homeless person it's not that much. Never steal or cheat anybody along the road. When you move around a lot you have a habit of bumping into the same people again.

I'm working on a "CyberHobo Cookbook" for hoboes as well. It's a one pot tasty meal. I'm not bothering with the boil a hotdog, or pour the hot water into the cup-of-soup. They are meals for when you just can't do another rice packet or roman noodles. Plus how-to make ovens, solar ovens, etc.

Hit the road! Leave your roots behind. Find a place to live and work from day to day. See the sights of each new place you visit. Make interesting friends (you never know when they might lend a helping hand). Life on the road means that every moment is your own. With no schedule and no responsibilities (except keeping yourself healthy), you must decide how to best use your time to achieve a balance between work, travel, relaxation, and entertainment. Enjoy the variety that each day has to offer...you're earning it.

Hit the Road! Do it with Pride! It's an adventure...not a destination. Even if you don't have a choice, act as if you do. Most people have a good heart! - Good Luck and Keep in touch!
Richard@cyberhobo.com Remember go South during the winter and North during the summer.

A couple of people wanted my mailing address to send me something, ask in an email message and I'll send it to you.

Any updates to this book or any freeware programs I find I put a link here for everyone:

<http://www.cyberhobo.com/updates/>

If I forgot anything that's critical let me know...

I really would appreciate any feedback and links to your journals!

Stay Safe Out There!