



Student Guide to Community Involvement

Every student must complete a minimum of 40 hours of community involvement activities as a part of the requirements for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (O.S.S.D.)

Why is it important?

The community involvement requirement is to encourage students to develop awareness and understanding of civic responsibility and of the role they can play and the contributions they can make in supporting and strengthening their communities. Engaging in volunteerism can help students:

- ✓ Improve well-being and confidence;
- ✓ Explore potential career pathways and network;
- ✓ Develop skills and enhance resumes;
- ✓ Learn more about the community they live in.

Key elements of this graduation requirement are:

- A minimum of 40 hours;
- Completed outside of scheduled class time;
- Must be unpaid activities;
- Start earning hours in the summer before entering grade 9;
- Completed by the end of grade 12.

Student Responsibilities:

- Set goals for completing your hours;
- If not on the list of eligible activities, confirm the activity is eligible for community service hours;
- Complete a minimum of 40 hours of community involvement;
- Submit **Completion of Community Involvement Activity** form(s) to the school office within one year of the activity completion;
- Check in with guidance in Grade 11 to make sure you are on track to complete this requirement before graduation

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities:

- A student under the age of eighteen must complete the form in consultation with his or her parents or guardians, and must also have one parent or guardian sign the form.

Community Supervisor Responsibilities:

- Provide the student with adequate safety training specific to the activity;
- Monitor the activity to ensure the safety of the student;
- Record the hours volunteered, and date and sign the form at the conclusion of the activity.

Questions?

If you have any questions about the Community Involvement program, or your responsibilities as either a student, parent, or supervisor, please contact your High School guidance department.

Approved Activities

Youth Groups:

e.g. assist with leadership of cubs, scouts, brownies, 4H

Sports/Recreation:

e.g. assist with coaching hockey, figure skating, soccer and other sports; volunteer refereeing;

Tutoring:

e.g. help younger students (not siblings) with a school subject

Service groups and charitable organizations:

e.g. Lions Club, Legion, Cancer Society, Heart and Stroke Foundation, CNIB, Recreation Board, canvassing, bingo volunteer, project helper

Religious Activities:

e.g. organize youth activities; teach or help with children's programs; lead special events, assist with clerical tasks

Volunteering for Seniors (excluding members of your family):

e.g. snow shoveling, raking, delivering *Meals on Wheels*, visiting, reading, recreational activities

Community service groups and activities:

e.g. fairs, fishing tournaments, winter carnivals, trade shows, Horticultural Society, parades, trade shows

Conservation and environmental projects:

e.g. community cleanup, volunteering at fish hatchery, tree planting

Community Services and organizations:

e.g. Toy Library, Public Library, hospital auxiliary worker, drama or music festival worker, candy striper, Healthy Communities Coalition, Community Living, food bank, school breakfast or lunch program, community pow wows.

What if what I want to do isn't on the list?

The list above includes activities that are pre-approved for engaging in, but it is not a comprehensive list. Additional activities may be eligible. If you are unsure of any of the examples listed above or the eligibility of your proofed activity, please contact your secondary school guidance department.

The flexibility provided during 2022/2023 for Community Involvement Activities is no longer in effect as of September 1, 2023. Activities that students completed prior to September 1, 2023, that were allowed under COVID-19 accommodations will be counted.

Ineligible Activities

According to the Ministry of Education Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) No. 124, an ineligible activity is one that:

- is a requirement of a class or course in which the student is enrolled (i.e. cooperative education portion of a course, job shadowing, workexperience).
- takes place during the time allotted for the instructional program on a school day. However, an activity that takes place during the student's lunch break or *spare* period is permissible.
- contravenes the minimum age requirements to work in a visit a workplace stated in regulations made under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.
- contravenes any other applicable legislation, regulation or policy.
- would normally be performed for wages by a person in the workplace.
- involves the operation of a vehicle, power tools, or scaffolding.
- Involves the administration of any type or form of medication or medical procedure to other persons.
- involves handling of substances classed as **designated substances** under the Occupational Health and Safety Act.
- requires the knowledge of a trades person whose trade is regulated by the provincial government.
- involves banking or handling of securities, or the handling of jewelry, works of art, antiques, or other valuables.
- contravenes the policies and procedures of the organization that is supervising the student's community involvement activities.
- involves activities that promote discrimination, harassment, or puts the safety of the student or others at risk.
- Involves a court-ordered program (e.g. community service program for young offenders, probationary program)
- Takes place in a logging or mining environment, if the student is under sixteen years of age
- consists of duties normally performed in the home (i.e. daily chores) or personal recreational activities.
- involves activities for a court-ordered program (i.e. communityservice program for young offenders, probationary program).
- provides direct financial benefit or gain to the student or to the student's immediate family.
- is work with any organization which does not comply with the ethical standards, policies, procedures or regulations of the Ministry of Education and the Rainy River District School Board.

Volunteer Community Service involves work done to benefit the community in which you live. Activities done for members of your family, or which are done on property owned by members of your family are not considered to be community service.