

Student volunteers valuable resource for your organization

Did you know that students are required to volunteer in order to graduate?

To encourage students to become involved in the community, the Ministry of Education requires students to accumulate 40 hours of volunteer work to receive their high school diploma. Volunteering also promotes good citizenship and gives students an opportunity to learn about the important role they can play in their community.

Students and their parents arrange volunteer opportunities

Students and their parent or caregiver are asked to work together to secure volunteer opportunities. Secondary schools are not directly involved in finding volunteer placements for students or monitoring students while they are completing their volunteer work.

Volunteer opportunities for 14- and 15-year-olds

The Peel board encourages students to finish the 40 hours of community involvement as early as possible—ideally by the end of grade 10 before course load and extra-curricular activities increase.

This means that many student volunteers will be under the age of 16. Community agencies are encouraged to create volunteer opportunities specifically for this age group.

Students are encouraged to use the following resources to find opportunities that match their experience and interests:

- Teachers or the school's guidance and career education department



**your
time
counts**

- the Peel board's web site, www.peelschools.org
- www.volunteermbc.org

Ministry guidelines on eligible activities

The Ministry of Education has developed guidelines for eligible volunteer activities. Generally, students can complete 40 hours of service in events or activities that meet the following criteria:

- supports not-for-profit agencies, institutions or foundations
- structured programs to promote tutoring, mentoring, visiting and coaching with the purpose of assisting others
- supports work that is global in nature
- promotes environmental awareness
- promotes and contributes to the health and well-being of any group
- affiliated with a club, religious organization, arts or cultural association, or political organization with the goal of making a positive contribution to the community
- benefits the community
- any activity not specified as ineligible

Examples of eligible activities include the following:

- fundraising – walk-a-thons, celebrity games, gift wrapping, galas
- sports/recreation – coaching, track meets, summer games, working with a buddy, organizing Special Olympics in the community
- community – helping to organize winter carnivals, parades, summer fairs, community events
- community projects – participating in food drives, support services for community groups
- religious organizations – programming for children, child-minding, helping with special events, clerical tasks

- seniors' programs – assisting in a seniors' residence or community program
- youth programs and child care – helping to run youth programs such as Scouts, Girl Guides, drop-in centres, breakfast programs, after-school programs, March break programs, leaders in training, summer playground activities, camps
- work with animals – helping with animal shelters, the local zoo, petting farms
- arts and culture – assisting at a gallery, performing music, being involved in a library program
- activities for individuals – helping seniors by shopping, reading letters, shoveling snow, visiting chronic care hospitals or helping young people through tutoring, transcribing, reading buddies, respite care

According to the ministry, the following activities are not eligible:

- student activities that displace paid workers
- any activity that normally requires pay (for example, babysitting, a part-time job)
- Take Our Kids to Work experience in grade 9
- job shadowing or a work experience component of a course
- co-operative education experiences
- any required activities of a course or program in which a student can earn a credit
- playing on a school sports team
- activities that are family responsibilities (for example, regular chores)
- court-ordered community service programs, alternative measures programs or any diversionary program that uses community involvement
- any activity involving the operation of a vehicle, power tools or scaffolding
- any activity where a student might administer medication or medical procedure
- any student under 16 involved in a logging environment
- any student under 15 involved in a factory environment
- any student under 14 in any working environment (except health and residential care environments)
- activities involving banking, securities or other valuables

As well, the Peel board has determined the following activities to be ineligible:

- any activity that provides direct financial revenue or gain to the student or to the student's immediate family
- any association with an organization or activity that does not comply with the policies of the ministry, the Peel board and human rights legislation

How to recruit students for volunteer positions

- Community agencies that wish to take on students for volunteer positions within their organizations can provide the volunteer information to the Peel board.
- Simply complete the position description template, "*Are you a community agency looking for a student volunteer?*" on this section of the website.
- Completed descriptions can also be e-mailed to communications@peelsb.com
- Or provide the information directly to the guidance and career education department at a school in your area.

Keeping track

Students will be provided with an Activity Record form to keep track of their hours and volunteer placements. Supervisors will need to sign this form at the completion of an activity.

Need additional information?

- visit www.peelschools.org and go to "Your Time Counts" in the "Student Stuff" section
- call Curriculum and Instruction Support Services at the Peel board at 905-890-1010/1-800-668-1146, ext. 2551

Are you a community agency looking for a student volunteer?

Complete this form and send it back to us!

Name of community agency/organization:

Description of community agency/organization:

Position title:

What the student will do:

Skills required:

Skills the student will learn:

Length of time required:

Location:

Contact person:

How students can get involved/apply:



**your
time
counts**