

COMMUNITY SERVICE GUIDELINES

Ontario students must complete 40 hours of community service before graduating from high school. Any students who have their 40 hours completed can come to the Guidance Office and the administrative assistant will enter the hours in the student's record. Below are types of activities that can be counted as community service:

HELP YOUR NEIGHBOURS

- Provide service to seniors or to others who have difficulty leaving their homes – raking, shovelling (no snow blowers), shopping (students should not drive vehicles for this purpose), visiting, reading, meal preparation.
- Assist a neighbour with child care – take child to park, watch child while parent prepares dinner.
- Tutor younger students – read, take to library, help with homework.

HELP YOUR COMMUNITY

- Volunteer at a seniors' home/centre – visit, read, play cards or board games, take seniors for walks, crafts.
- Help organize local community events – food drives/banks.
- Take part in environmental initiatives – cleaning and recycling operations, park cleanup, planting trees and flower beds (students should not use power tools – lawn mowers, hedge trimmers, wood chippers, etc.).
- Get involved in charitable activities – walk-a-thons, daffodil sales, canvassing for organizations.
- Assist with sports teams – community leagues, parks & recreation programs.
- Volunteer in leadership role with community groups -- youth groups.
- Volunteer in hospitals, libraries or any organization recommended by the Volunteer Centre of Toronto.
- Volunteer with social service or animal welfare agencies – Red Cross, United Way, Humane Society, etc.
- Get involved in the democratic political process – scrutineering, canvassing, campaigning.
- Service through religious communities/places of worship.
- Assist with literacy initiatives – at local libraries, day care centres, community centres.

HELP YOUR SCHOOL OR OTHER SCHOOLS

- Help with sports teams – run skills drills, assist coach.
- Help in the library – shelving books, tidying up, changing bulletin boards.
- Tutor other students – help with homework, review difficult concepts.
- Assist students with special needs – peer buddy.
- Assist with planning of arts or athletic events – do publicity, set up for track meets, sell tickets, attend coat check, offer technical support.

- Facilitate school events such as parent information nights – meet and greet visitors, give guided tours, serve refreshments.
- Assist with environmental activities – encourage recycling, plant trees, flowers, work on grounds crew (students should not use power tools).
- Participate in charitable initiatives – food drives, holiday toy drives.
- Sit on school councils, committees – school governance, be a peer mentor/mediator, help with orientation of grade 9 students.

INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

The Ministry of Education has developed a list of activities that may **NOT** be chosen as community involvement activities. An ineligible activity is an activity that:

- is a requirement of a class or course in which the student is enrolled (e.g. co-operative education portion of a course, job shadowing, work experience);
- 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 breaks or "spare" periods is permissible;
- takes place in a logging or mining environment, if the student is under sixteen years of age;
- takes place in a factory, if the student is under 15 years of age;
- takes place in a workplace other than a factory, if the student is under fourteen years of age and is not accompanied by an adult;
- would normally be performed for wages by a person in the workplace (students are not to replace paid workers or be paid themselves);
- 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 tradesperson whose trade is regulated by the provincial government;
- involves banking or the handling of securities, or the handling of jewellery, works of art, antiques, or other valuables;
- consists of duties normally performed in the student's home (i.e. daily chores) or personal recreational activities;
- involves a court-ordered program (e.g. community-service program for young offenders, probationary program).