



Community Involvement

Every student who begins secondary school during or after the 1999-2000 school year must complete community involvement activities as a part of the requirements for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (O.S.S.D.)

Key elements of this graduation requirement are:

- A minimum of 40 hours;
- Completed outside of scheduled class time;
- Must be unpaid activities;
- Completed by the end of grade 12.

The goals of the Community Involvement activities are:

- Develop a positive self-image and a sense of worth within the community;
- Develop civic responsibility;
- Begin developing links and contacts within the community.

Student Responsibilities:

- Submit a **Notification of Planned Community Involvement Activity** form to the school office prior to any involvement;
- 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.

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.

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.

Approved Activities

Youth Groups:

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

Coaching:

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

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, Ladies Auxillary
e.g. canvassing, bingo volunteer, project helper

Service to your church community:

e.g. teaching Sunday School, pastoral visiting, assisting at church events, choir, readings

Helping the Elderly (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, major community events, Kids and Company, Relay for Life, trade shows

Conservation and recycling projects:

e.g. Outers' Club town cleanup, bottle drives, working at fish habitat and other environmental projects

Community Services and organizations:

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

Ineligible Activities

The Ministry of Education has developed a list of activities that may not be chosen as Community Involvement activities. These are referred to as ineligible activities. An ineligible activity is any activity 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, 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* period 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 fifteen 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;
- 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** (e.g. asbestos, lead, dangerous chemicals, toxic materials, etc.) under the Occupational Health and Safety Act;
- Requires the knowledge of a trades person whose trade is regulated by the provincial government;
- Involved banking or handling of securities, or the handling of jewelry, works of art, antiques, or other valuables;
- 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. community service 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.