

Community Involvement Activities

The Ministry of Education in Ontario states that all students must complete a minimum of 40 hours of community involvement activities during their years in the secondary school program. This requirement is to be completed outside student's normal instructional hours and in a variety of settings.

This requirement is designed to encourage students to develop an awareness and understanding of their responsibility and of the role they can play in supporting and strengthening their communities.

The purpose of the community involvement is to promote community values by:

- helping students understand how they can make a positive difference in their environment
- having students demonstrate their integrity
- having students contribute to their community
- increasing student awareness of community needs
- discovering the role students can play in making their communities better places in which to live and work
- developing a positive self-image and a greater sense of identity in the community
- providing a possibility for exploring career opportunities



Students may not include activities that are counted towards a credit, through paid work or by assuming duties normally performed by a paid employee.

Parents and students play a major role in this initiative. Organizations or persons supervising the activities must confirm completion of the hours. Documentation attesting to the completion of each activity must be submitted. This documentation must include for each activity the name of the person or organization receiving the service, the activity performed, the dates and hours, signatures of the student and his or her parents and a signed acknowledgement by the person (or representative of the organization) involved.

Students' transcripts will contain a record of whether or not they have completed the requirement.

For a list of possible activities see your Guidance Department.

For more information about examples of eligible activities visit www.edu.gov.on.ca



What Types of Activities are Eligible?

A list of eligible categories of activities has been developed. A few examples have been provided in each of the categories to assist students in their selection of activities.

- Charitable Organizations - assisting with special events, programs, clerical tasks
- Environmental Projects - flower/tree planting, beautification projects, recycling projects, recycling depot
- Animal Care – volunteering in a veterinarian clinic, zoo, animal shelter
- Community Organizations - special events, food banks, community support services, shelters, clerical tasks
- Religious Organizations – assisting with programs, special events, clerical tasks
- Political Organizations – activities related to legitimate and recognized political organizations; municipal, provincial and federal political activities except during an official election period
- Law Enforcement Agencies – volunteering for activities sponsored by the police
- Sports and Recreation - coaching, organizing special events, assisting with projects/events
- Health Agencies - volunteering in hospitals, hospices, blood donor clinics
- Senior Citizens - assisting in seniors' residences, providing services for seniors in the community
- Children/Youth Programs - children/youth programs, volunteering in a child care centre or camp
- Arts and Culture - volunteering in galleries, libraries, community productions
- Community Service for Individuals - assisting community members in need
- School Services - peer tutoring, assisting with school events, student council



What Types of Activities are Ineligible?

The Ministry of Education has developed a list of activities that may not be chosen as community involvement activities and that are therefore ineligible activities. An ineligible activity is one that:

- would normally be performed for wages by a person in the workplace
- is a requirement of a class or course in which the student is enrolled (e.g. coop, job shadowing, work experience)
- takes place during the time allotted for the instructional program on a school day other than during the student's lunch break or "spare" period
- 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, if the student is under 14 years of age & is not accompanied by an adult
- 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 jewelry, works of art, antiques, or other valuables
- consists of duties normally performed in the home, such as daily chores, or personal recreational activities
- involves a court-ordered program (e.g., community-service program for young offenders, probationary program)

