

# Community Involvement Activities

Students are required to complete a minimum of 40 hours of *community involvement activities* as part of the requirements for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). Students can start accumulating their community involvement hours in the summer before entering Grade 9.

The community involvement requirement is designed to provide students with the opportunity to develop awareness and understanding about civic responsibility. By being involved in their communities and serving others, students can develop transferable skills and explore different sectors and potential career opportunities as well as deepening their understanding of their role in society.

Parents/guardians should help their child in the selection of their community involvement activities. Parents/guardians are also encouraged to communicate with the individual or organization supervising a student's community involvement activities and the school principal if they have any questions or concerns.

## Getting Started:

- Step 1: Review the list of eligible and ineligible activities below
- Step 2: Consult with parents/guardians/Student Services department and select an eligible activity
- Step 3: Download or pick up a *Community Involvement form* from your secondary school
- Step 4: Obtain the signature of your parent/guardian if you are under 18
- Step 5: Complete the activity
- Step 6: Ask the Supervisor of the activity to complete and sign your *Completion Form*
- Step 7: Submit the completed form to the Student Services department at your secondary school

## Examples of eligible activities:

- provide service to seniors– raking, shoveling, shopping meal preparation
- assist a neighbour with childcare, pet sitting, animal care
- tutor other students – read, take to library, help with homework, review difficult concepts
- volunteer at a seniors' home/centre – visit, read, play cards, take seniors for walks, make crafts
- take part in environmental initiatives – recycling campaigns, park cleanup, planting trees
- assist with sports teams but not as a player
- volunteer in hospitals, libraries, or any charitable, not-for-profit organizations
- volunteer with social service or animal welfare agencies – Red Cross, United Way, Humane Society

## An ineligible activity is an activity that:

- is a requirement of a class, course, or program in which the student is enrolled
- 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
- contravenes the minimum age requirements to work in or visit a workplace stated in regulations made under the Occupational Health and Safety Act
- contravenes any other applicable legislation, regulation or policy
- contravenes the policies and procedures of the organization that is supervising the student's community involvement activities
- 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 tradesperson whose trade is regulated by the provincial government
- involves banking, the handling of securities, or the handling of valuable items such as jewelry, works of art, or antiques
- consists of duties normally performed in the home (i.e., daily chores) or personal recreational activities
- involves activities for a court-ordered program (e.g., community-service program for young offenders, probationary program)
- involves activities that promote discrimination, harassment, or puts the safety of the student or others at risk.