

Eligible Community Involvement Activities

To graduate high school, students must complete 40 hours of volunteer community involvement. Community involvement activities may be done in many places, including charities, not-for-profit organizations, and public sector institutions (including hospitals and libraries). The following is a list of community involvement activities that are considered acceptable. Unapproved activities cannot be started until permission has been granted by the school.

Examples of approved community involvement activities

- **School community service:** These activities must be completed outside students' class time and may include assisting with arts initiatives, school sports teams, charity/social action projects, school committees, peer tutoring, peer helping and/or youth ministry.
- **Parish community service:** These activities may include helping, leading and/or organizing childminding during liturgies, Eucharistic ministry, altar serving, greeting/ushering at church activities, music ministry, reading at Mass, Sunday school, parish committees, social justice initiatives and/or youth ministry.
- **Local service clubs:** Reach out to your local Lions, Kinsmen, Optimist, or Rotary clubs to find out if they have any upcoming events that require volunteer support.
- **Fundraising:** Canvassing, walk-a-thons for community benefit, celebrity games, gift wrapping, gala and sales for charitable purposes (Canadian Cancer Society, United Way)
- **Sports/recreation:** Coaching and helping to organize a youth sports team, track meets and summer games, volunteering as a buddy or pool assistant.
- **Community events:** Helping organize winter carnivals, parades, and summer fairs (Celtic Festival, Santa Claus parade, other local events).
- **Community projects:** Participating in organized food drives, support services for community groups (Community Living, 4H clubs, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Food Bank).
- **Environmental projects:** Participating in community clean-up, beach clean-up, flower/tree planting, recycling, and general beautification projects and activities.
- **Volunteer work with seniors:** Assisting in a seniors' residence, e.g. serving snacks, helping with activities or portering, or participating in visiting and reading programs.
- **Health agencies:** Volunteering in hospitals, hospices, and Canadian Blood Services (assist at a blood donor clinic or time to donate blood).
- **Committee work:** Participating in advisory boards or neighbourhood associations and regional associations, member of a Youth Council for an organization.
- **Youth program:** Assisting with the operation of not-for-profit youth programs (Scouts, Guides, Cadets), drop-in centre activities, breakfast programs, child care programs, March break programs, Leaders in Training, summer playground activities and camps.
- **Work with animals:** Assisting with animal care, horseback riding programs, dog walking.

- **Arts and culture:** Assisting with a performing arts production or program, or in a community library program (Huron County Library has a Teen Reviewers program)
- **Activities for individuals*:** Assisting someone who requires support with shopping, tutoring, light snow removal (no use of snowblower), or housekeeping (*pre-approval recommended)

Examples of ineligible (not approved) community involvement activities

- provides direct financial benefit to the student or to the student's family
- is affiliated with an organization that promotes values contrary to the teaching of the Catholic Church
- would normally be performed for wages by a person in the workplace
- is a requirement of a class or course (i.e. co-op education, job shadowing)
- takes place during class time (lunch or study (spare) activities are permissible)
- is a student exchange program
- consists of duties normally performed in the home (i.e. daily chores) or personal recreational activities
- involves a court-ordered program
- involves the administration of any type or form of medication or medical procedure
- involves handling of substances classed as "designated substances" under the Occupational Health & Safety Act
- 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
- involves the operation of a vehicle, power tools, or scaffolding
- requires knowledge of a tradesperson whose trade is regulated by the provincial government
- involves banking or handling of securities, or the handling of jewellery, works of art, antiquities or other valuables
- involves activities that promote discrimination, harassment, or puts the safety of the student or others at risk.

How to request approval for an unlisted activity

If a student would like to participate in an activity or event that is not clearly within the list of examples, the student must contact the school's Student Services/Guidance office to discuss the proposed activity.

The activity cannot be started until permission has been granted. If the activity is done without permission and permission is later denied, the activity will not be counted toward the student's community involvement requirement.