



Community Involvement

All secondary school students in Ontario must complete 40 hours of community involvement to receive their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). Community involvement encourages students to develop:

- An understanding of the roles that they play in their community; and
- A greater sense of belonging within the community.

Students may start accumulating community involvement hours in the summer before they enter grade nine.

Roles and Responsibilities of Students

In consultation with their parents/guardians, students should select an activity that has been pre-approved by the Director. Students may choose an activity that is not on the list below, provided that it is not an activity specified on the Ministry of Education's list of ineligible activities. Important things to note:

- The safety of students is paramount.
- Students are not paid for community involvement activities.
- Community involvement requirements must be met outside of regularly scheduled class time.
- The Community Involvement Notification and Activity Completion Sheet form must be filled in and signed by the student, the student's parent/guardian, and the community sponsor (person/organization providing the community involvement opportunity for the student). This can be obtained from the office.
- Students must submit the form to the Director completion of the 40 hours or upon completion of a specific activity.

Roles and Responsibilities of Parents/Guardians

Parents/guardians should provide assistance to their child in the selection of his/her community involvement activities. Parents/guardians are also encouraged to communicate with the community sponsor and the school principal if they have any questions or concerns. A parent must sign the Community Involvement Notification and Activity Completion Sheet if the student is under the age of eighteen years.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT NOTIFICATION AND ACTIVITY COMPLETION SHEET

Student Name: _____

High School: _____

Student Telephone: _____

School Year (xxxx-xxxx): _____

Principal: _____

Community involvement hours completed to date: _____

Please provide the information requested below about the community involvement activities in which you plan to participate. Submit this form to the Academic Adviser when you have completed your community involvement activities. All activities must be on the eligible list. **Approval of the principal or designate is required before starting the activity.**

ACTIVITY	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF HOURS	ESTIMATED DATE OF COMPLETION	SCHOOL APPROVAL	COMPLETED NUMBER OF HOURS	DATE OF COMPLETION	ORGANIZATION, TELEPHONE NUMBER & SUPERVISOR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	SIGNATURE SUPERVISOR & COMMENTS
Total							

Student Signature

Date

Parent/ Guardian Signature

Date

For office use only
Completion has been noted on OSR

Signature of School Official

Date

This information is collected and used pursuant to the Education Act. The information will be used to document the Community Involvement Diploma Requirements

NOTE: Please submit this form to the school when you have completed the community involvement activities described above. Submit no later than January 8 and June 8 each term so that hours can be recorded on the upcoming report card. Personal information on this form is collected under the authority of the Education Act and Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, and will only be used to document completion of community involvement hours. The information on this form is confidential and access will be limited to those employees who have an administrative need, the student, and parent(s)/guardian(s) of a student who is under eighteen years of age. Questions regarding this collection are to be directed to the school principal.

The following list is not exclusive but contains some examples of activities that are suitable for completion of the community involvement requirement.

- **Not-for-profit Agencies** – includes voluntary activities for any not-for-profit institution or foundation that would not displace a paid worker
- **For-profit agencies** – includes voluntary activities that are charitable-based for any business or organization that would not displace a paid worker.

Note: Any association with an organization, or an organizations activities, that does not comply with the ethical standards, policies, procedures and regulations of both the Ministry of Education and the Board are not eligible for community involvement.

- **Support for Individuals** – includes assistance to those in need with shopping, housekeeping, writing letters or transcribing, hospital visitation or chronic care
- **Learning Assistance** – includes activities in structured programs that promote tutoring, mentoring, coaching, reading buddies or whose purpose is to help others that require that assistance
- **Ethical Contributions** – includes affiliation with a club, religious organization or political organization that seeks to make a positive and ethical contribution to the community or supports ethical works of a global nature
- **Community Projects** – includes participating in food drives or supporting groups such as 4H Clubs, Welcome Wagon or Meals-on-Wheels
- **Community Events** – includes helping to organize winter carnivals, parades and community celebrations
- **Sports/Recreation** – includes coaching and helping to organize Special Olympics, sporting events or games, or volunteering at a recreation centre
- **Environmental Projects** – includes participating in community clean-up, flower/tree planting, recycling and neighbourhood beautification projects
 - involves a student under 14 in any working environment (unless accompanied by an adult).

In addition, Heritage Academy has deemed that door-to-door canvassing is not an eligible activity for community involvement, except under certain circumstances (i.e. the student is age 16 or older; parental or other responsible adult supervision is provided; and the fund-raising is in support of a recognized charity, excluding for school or religious purposes).

- **Work with Seniors** – includes assisting in a seniors residence, serving snack, supporting craft activities or participating in visiting and reading programs
- **Youth Programs** – includes assistance with youth programs, March Break programs, Leaders in Training, socializing special needs youth, summer playground activities and camps
- **Religious Activities** – includes participating as a volunteer in programs for children, childminding, Sunday School assistance, clerical tasks and other events
- **Arts and Culture** – includes assisting at a gallery, performing arts production or in a community library program
- **Committee Work** – includes participating on advisory boards, neighbourhood associations and regional organizations
- **Office/Clerical Work** – includes activities in reception, computer work, and mailings for groups providing charitable or general community benefit
- **Fundraising** – includes walk-a-thons for community benefit, celebrity games, gift wrapping, gala events and sales for charitable purpose
- **School Community Service** – includes service within the school community that provides benefits to others and takes place outside the time allotted for the instructional program on a school day, such as peer mentoring, tutoring or helping

Ineligible Activities

The Minister of Education has deemed that the following are “ineligible activities” for Community Involvement Any activity that:

- would displace a paid worker;
- would pay the students;
- takes place during the instructional program of a school day;
- is required as part of a credit course, such as a cooperative education placement, “Take Our Kids To Work”, experience in grade 9, job shadowing or the work experience component of a course;
- involves playing on a school sports team;
- is part of regular family responsibilities;
- is part of a court ordered community service program, alternative measures program or any diversionary program that uses community service;
- involves the operation of a vehicle, power tools or use of scaffolding;
- involves the administration of any form of medication or medical procedure to other persons;
- involves the handling of substances classified as “designated substances” under the Occupational Health and Safety Act;
- requires the knowledge of a tradesperson (e.g. electrician);
- involves banking, securities or other valuables;
- involves a student under 16 in a logging or mining environment;
- involves a student under 15 in a factory environment; and