

# Community Involvement

## Helping students understand their role in the community

Every student who began secondary school in 1999, or after in Ontario, is required to complete 40 hours of community involvement in order to receive his/her diploma. **Effective July 1, 2011, students will be able to start accumulating community involvement hours in the summer before they enter Grade 9.**

The purpose is to encourage students to develop an understanding of the various roles they can play in their community and to help them develop a greater sense of belonging. The 40 hours is a minimum requirement. Some students may wish to complete more than 40 hours, especially if they have a particular area of interest or destination pathway.

Students will select community involvement activities in consultation with their parents. The selection of activities should take into account the age, maturity, and ability of the student, the location and environment of the proposed activity, and the need for any special training, equipment and preparation. The safety of the student is paramount. Students will not be paid for community involvement activities.

As students complete community involvement hours, they must submit all the required documentation to the school. The principal will decide whether the students have met the community involvement requirement and, if so, will record it as completed on the official transcript.

### Roles and Responsibilities of Students

In consultation with their parents/guardians, students are to select an activity from the Simcoe County District School Board's list of approved activities.

A *Completion of Community Involvement Activities* form must be completed by the student and signed by the student's parent/guardian (if the student is under 18 years of age) and the community sponsor (the person or organization who provided the community involvement opportunity for the student). Students must submit the form to the appropriate school office or teacher adviser upon completion of the 40 hours, or at appropriate intervals as decided by the principal.

### Roles and Responsibilities of Parents

Parents/guardians should assist their student in the selection of their community involvement activities. They are also encouraged to communicate with the community sponsor and their student's teacher adviser if they have any questions. Parents must sign the *Completion of Community Involvement Activities* form for students under 18 years of age.

### Eligible Activities

Our local school board in consultation with school councils, the board's Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) and Ontario School Board's Insurance Exchange (OSBIE) considers the following as eligible activities:

- ✓ assistance to seniors
- ✓ environmental projects
- ✓ sports and recreation activities
- ✓ working with charitable and service organizations
- ✓ working in health facilities
- ✓ community or specific school-related activities

### Ineligible Activities

The Ministry of Education developed a list of activities that are ineligible. These include activities that:

- ✗ take place in a logging or mining environment, if the student is under 16 years of age;
- ✗ take place in a factory, if the student is under 15 years of age;
- ✗ take place in a workplace other than a factory, if the student is under 14 years and not accompanied by an adult;
- ✗ would normally be performed for wages by a worker;
- ✗ involve operating a vehicle, power tools, or scaffolding;
- ✗ involve the administration of any type or form of medication or medical procedure to other persons;
- ✗ involve the handling of substances classed as "designated substances" under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*;
- ✗ require the knowledge of a trades person whose trade is regulated by the provincial government;
- ✗ involve banking or the handling of securities, jewelry, works of art, antiques, or other valuables;
- ✗ consist of duties normally performed in the home;
- ✗ involve a court-ordered program (i.e. community-service program for youth, probationary program);
- ✗ involve the use of a firearm.

### Insurance Disclaimer

The Simcoe County District School Board's liability insurance protects students and community sponsors for damages or injuries to a third party that may arise from the student's activities. The Board's liability insurance does not cover negligence on behalf of the sponsor's involvement. Sponsors are responsible for ensuring that their own liability insurance is in place. The School Board expects that community sponsors will provide students with safety instructions, any necessary safety equipment, training and supervision.

Students are not covered by the *Workplace Safety & Insurance* legislation in the event of a personal injury. Parents/students are encouraged to purchase *Student Accident Insurance*. Application forms are available through the school.