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# Spend Your Summer Volunteering

## Now's the time to volunteer

Summer vacation is quickly approaching! While this is a great time to relax after your long school year, you should also consider spending some time volunteering. You'll have plenty of free time and **spending even a weekend or two volunteering can go a long way!**

## Why you should volunteer this summer

There are **many benefits to volunteering**. Here are just a few:

### 1. Gain valuable references for scholarships, jobs, and school

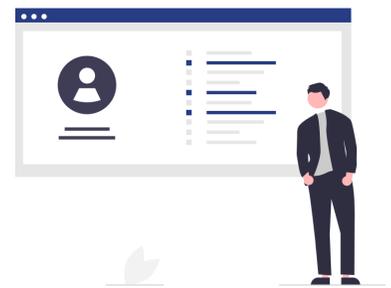
The mentors you meet in your volunteer positions can act as references on your behalf when you apply to scholarships, jobs, and postsecondary education. Many applications will require you to submit references from outside your school, and **contacts from your volunteer work are the best resources to have!** They can attest to your work ethic, personality, and skills in ways that teachers cannot.

### 2. Boost your resumé

Whether you're applying for jobs or to school, you'll need some experiences to **set yourself apart from other applicants**. Volunteer positions are the best way to get around the never ending loop of needing experience to get experience that comes with first time jobs. By volunteering your time, you're demonstrating a **commitment to your community**, which employers and schools value.

### 3. Earn your mandatory volunteer hours for school

In many provinces across Canada, high school students **must complete a certain number of volunteer hours to graduate**. The number of hours can range from 25-40, but make sure you check your school's requirements well before graduation! Some students choose to do it all at once, whereas others spread it out over their high school careers.



#### 4. Explore your interests

Do you enjoy reading? Playing sports? Knitting? Volunteering helps you **discover new hobbies and interests**. **Time will fly** if your volunteer work involves something you're passionate about. You don't need to choose one activity to focus on either. If you're passionate about a number of activities, causes, and hobbies, you can divide your hours and volunteer with multiple organizations.



#### 5. Gain transferable skills

Volunteering is a great way to gain transferable skills that you can **utilize in your workplace, education, and other aspects of life**. You'll develop skills like communication, leadership, teamwork, time management, prioritizing, problem solving, and many more. The skills you learn while volunteering can help **advance your career and earn more opportunities**.

#### 6. Help guide your education and career path

Do you know what you want your future career to be? Finding volunteering placements in your dream career field can be a great way to **find out if you enjoy it**, and what kind of **skills you'll need**. If you don't know what you want your career to be, then volunteering while you're in high school can help you **find career fields you may be interested in** and help determine what you'll study in your postsecondary education.

## How to decide where you can volunteer

There are many different places where you can volunteer, but the best way to select placements you'll enjoy are by **considering these questions**:

- What am I **good** at?
- What kinds of **activities do I enjoy**?
- Are there any **fundraisers or charities that I'm passionate about**?
- What do I **care** about?

If you're not sure where to start looking for volunteer positions, these are some of the **most popular options all-year round**:

#### 1. Your elementary or middle school

Don't stress over making a good first impression where you want to volunteer — you **already have established connections with your teachers** at your previous schools. Remember all those fundraisers, events, track and field days, and after school programs you may have participated in when you were younger? You can volunteer with any number of these activities.

## 2. Your current high school

With all the **clubs, extracurricular activities, and sports teams** available in high school, you'll have **no problem finding a volunteer position**. A few examples of volunteer roles available in most high schools include scorekeepers for sports teams, volunteers to decorate for dances, and organizers and leaders for events and fundraisers.

## 3. Sports teams

Did you ever play a sport when you were younger? Do you still play sports? If so, you understand the exercises, activities, and responsibilities involved in the sport. **Consider volunteering with local recreational and competitive sports teams** as scorekeepers, referees, assistant coaches, coaches, equipment managers, fitness coaches, and more. This way you can take everything you've learned from the sport yourself, and apply it to a volunteer position.



## 4. Local libraries/community centres

Local libraries and community centres offer a variety of **programs for kids** to join throughout the year. You could lead fun science experiments, help a child learn to read, learn about the outdoors, and more. These programs always need help from volunteers to keep everything running smoothly.

# Have a great summer and **start volunteering!**

Summertime is all about enjoying the sun and catching up on activities and goals you'd like to achieve. You have **two whole months to do what you want** — so **why not volunteer?** With these facts and suggestions in mind, you'll make the most out of your volunteer positions!

If you're still not sure where to begin, try checking out these **helpful websites** to find potential volunteer positions you may be interested in:

### Volunteer Canada

<https://volunteer.ca>

### Go Volunteer

<https://govolunteer.ca>

Good luck!

