



INFORMATION ON COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT FOR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Introduction

Every student who begins secondary school in Ontario is required to complete 40 hours of community involvement in order to receive a diploma. The purpose of this requirement 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 within the community.

Information regarding the community involvement requirement for a secondary school graduation diploma for persons and organizations who are asked by students to sponsor a particular community involvement activity is available at <http://scdsb.on.ca/student-street/community-involvement/>.

Students will select community involvement activities in consultation with their parents. 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.

It should be noted that students cannot be paid for performing any community involvement activity or receive compensation of any type.

Roles and Responsibilities of Sponsors in the Community

One of the purposes of the community involvement requirement is to develop strong ties between students and their communities. Persons and organizations within the community may be asked by the student to sponsor a community involvement activity. Any safety training, equipment, or special preparation that is required for the activity should be provided by the person or organization. It is crucial that students are able to fulfil their community involvement requirement in a safe environment. The person overseeing the student's activity must verify the date(s) and the number of hours completed on the *Completion of Community Involvement Activities* form (attached).

The Simcoe County District School Board's liability insurance will protect the students and community sponsors from damages or injuries to a third party that may arise from the student's volunteer activities.

The Board's liability insurance does not cover negligence on behalf of the community sponsor's involvement in the program. Sponsors are responsible for ensuring that their own liability insurance is in place.

The Board's List of Eligible Activities

The activities listed below are approved by the Board in consultation with school councils, the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) and the Ontario School Boards' Insurance Exchange (OSBIE) for the completion of the community involvement requirement:

- assistance to seniors
- environmental projects
- charitable and service organizations
- sports and recreation activities (that are normally volunteer positions)
- specific school-related activities
- community activities
- health facilities