

GRADUATION DIPLOMA REQUIREMENT 40 HOURS COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Every Ontario student beginning secondary school after September 1, 1999 must complete 40 hours of community involvement activities in order to receive a graduation diploma.

What Steps Must STUDENTS Follow?

- Talk with your parent/guardian about community involvement
- Read the list of eligible and ineligible activities
- Select one or more of the eligible activities
- When you complete each activity, fill out the form 'Completion of Community Involvement Activities', and ask your parent and the community sponsor (the 'supervisor' of the activity) to sign form
- Give 'Completion of Community Involvement Activities' to designate at your high school
- If unsure whether activity is eligible check with designate at your high school before starting

ELIGIBLE Community Involvement Activities

An event/activity/program:

- Designed to be of benefit to the community
- To support not-for-profit agencies, institutions or foundations
- Structured to promote tutoring, mentoring, visiting, coaching whose purpose is to assist others
- That supports work of a global nature
- That promotes environmental awareness
- That promotes and contributes to the health and well-being of any group, including school-based activities
- Affiliated with a club, religious organization, arts or cultural association, or political organization that seeks to make a positive contribution in the community

Gain valuable experiences working with volunteer groups and learning about service to people and organizations.



What Steps Must PARENTS Follow?

- Assist your child to select appropriate community involvement activities
- Communicate with the community sponsor and school principal if they have any questions
- Sign the 'Community Involvement Acquisition Sheet' for each placement if the student is under eighteen years of age
- Ensure that activities listed are eligible
- Consider purchasing student accident insurance for personal injury if private personal coverage is insufficient

Need volunteers!

Contact Suzanne Cass, GEDSB at (519) 754-1606 ext 239 or email casssuz@gedsb.net or your local secondary school

What are the Opportunities For and Responsibility of COMMUNITY SPONSORS?

- Help students understand and develop a commitment to the community
- Provide any training, equipment, health/safety, or special preparation that is required for the activity
- Encourage the student to do a good job
- Consider writing a letter of reference for the student
- Ensure supervisor of student is eighteen years of age or older
- Sign the 'Completion of Community Involvement Activities' sheet verifying the date(s) and number of hours

Tips for Success at Your Activity

- **Be on time**
- **Use manners**
- **Maintain confidentiality**
- **Dress appropriately**
- **Listen to instructions**
- **Follow through on commitments**
- **Ask for help if in doubt**



INELIGIBLE Community Involvement Activities

The Ministry of Education and Training's list of INELIGIBLE activities include:

- Activities that displace paid workers
- Activities where you are normally paid (ie. Babysitting)
- 'Take Our Kids to Work Day'
- Experiential learning (ie. Job shadow, work experience, cooperative education)
- Required activities of a course where you earn a credit
- Playing on school sports team
- Regular family responsibilities (ie. Chores)
- Court ordered community service programs, alternative measure programs or any diversionary program that uses community service
- Activities involving the operation of a vehicle, power tools or scaffolding
- Activities where you might administer medication or medical procedure
- Any student under 16 involved in a logging environment
- Any student under 15 involved in a factory environment
- Any student under 14 involved in any working environment (except health and residential care environments)
- Activities involving banking, securities or other valuables
- Activities that take place during time allotted for instructional program on a school day

Grand Erie District School Board INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

In addition to those that the Ministry has listed INELIGIBLE, the following are also included:

- Any activity that provides direct financial revenue or gain to the student or to the student's immediate family
- Any association with an organization or an organizational activity that does not comply with the policies, procedures and regulations of both the Ministry of Education, Human Rights Legislation, and the Grand Erie District School Board
- An activity that takes place during the time allotted for the instructional program on a school day. However, an activity that takes place during the student's lunch break or 'spare' period is permissible.



What are the Responsibilities of the GRAND ERIE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD?

The Grand Erie District School Board through the individual school principal will provide essential information and documentation to facilitate the completion of this graduation requirement.

INSURANCE

The Grand Erie District School Board's liability insurance will protect the students and community sponsors for up to forty hours of community involvement activities. Students are NOT covered with Workplace Safety and Insurance Board coverage in the event of personal injury. Students and parents are encouraged to purchase Student Accident Insurance which is available through the schools. Boards expect that all community sponsors will provide students with appropriate instructions, put in place health and safety precautions, train and supervise student volunteers. The board's insurance does not cover the sponsors for lawsuits that arise from their negligence or for student injuries in the workplace.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES	
SCHOOL PROGRAMS	Helping out with a non-credit extra curricular activity such as: student governance, organizing school activities (ie. Sports meets, music production), and assisting in school activities (ie. Ushering, parent's night)
FUNDRAISING	Canvassing, walk-a-thons, celebrity games, gift wrapping, gala events, and sales
SPORTS/RECREATION	Coaching, track meets, summer games, working with a buddy, pool assistant, and organizing Special Olympics
COMMUNITY	Helping to organize winter carnivals, parades, and summer fairs
COMMUNITY PROJECTS	Participating in food drives, support services for community groups, 4H Clubs, and Welcome Wagon
ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS	Participating in community clean-up, flower/tree planting, recycling, and beautification activities
RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES	Programming for children, child-minding, helping with Sunday School, special events, and clerical tasks
SENIORS' PROGRAM	Assisting in a Seniors' Residence or Seniors' Community Program (ie. Helping with activities)
OFFICE AND CLERICAL	Reception, computer work, and mailings for volunteer/not-for-profit agencies
YOUTH PROGRAM	Helping to run youth programs such as 4H, Scouts, Guides, drop-in centres, breakfast, after school and March Break programs, Leaders in Training, Summer playground activities, and camps
WORK WITH ANIMALS	Working with animal care, horseback riding programs, or work at a local zoo or petting farm ie. SPCA
ARTS AND CULTURE	Assisting at a gallery, performing music, or involvement in a library program
ACTIVITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS	Assisting seniors shop, read, prepare letters, shovel snow, chronic care hospital visits or tutoring, transcribing, reading buddies, and respite care



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT GUIDE

For Students and Parents



For more information: www.mypathways.ca
 – students, step 4 - Get Experience

