



Did you know you need to do 40 hours of volunteer work in the community to get your high school diploma?

Q Why do I need 40 hours of community involvement?

A Forty hours of community involvement is a Ministry of Education requirement for completion of your high school diploma. Community involvement provides you with an opportunity to learn about your interests and explore possible career paths. Volunteering also promotes good citizenship and enables you to understand the role you can play in the community.

Q How do I determine which activities are eligible or ineligible?

A Ministry of Education guidelines determine which activities are eligible or ineligible. For example, an eligible activity is one that promotes environmental awareness or supports work that is global in nature. Ineligible activities include working for family members, activities that would normally be performed for wages and any activity that is a course requirement. Examples of eligible and ineligible activities are available in the "Your Time Counts" brochure and in the "Student Stuff" section at www.peelschools.org.

Q How much time do I have to complete my 40 hours?

A You have the entire period in which you are enrolled in secondary school, including summer and holidays.

Q What's in it for me?

A In addition to contributing to a community organization or worthwhile activity, you develop self-confidence and gain information and contacts that may assist you in your career/life planning.

Q What does this have to do with high school?

A Classroom study is only one part of a complete high school education. Volunteering in the community enhances communication and social skills, providing you with a sense of community spirit that will benefit you in adulthood.

Q Will my school help me find an activity?

A While securing a volunteer opportunity is mainly your responsibility, the school will provide a list of appropriate activities, the Activity Record form, brochures and volunteer postings. The school will also record the completion of the 40 hours on your school transcript.

Q How can I complete 40 hours and still keep up with school work and a part-time job?

A Try to complete the 40 hours of community involvement in the first two years of secondary school. As time passes, your course load will increase and after-school commitments may not leave much volunteer time.

Q Where can I volunteer?

A The community involvement requirement can be completed anywhere provided the activity meets ministry guidelines.

Q How can I find a volunteer placement?

A There are a variety of resources for locating eligible community involvement activities. Visit www.peelschools.org and go to "Your Time Counts" in the "Student Stuff" section. You can also ask your teachers and guidance counsellors for suggestions or contact agencies directly. Visit www.volunteermbc.org or www.charityvillage.com. Be sure to consult your parents about the activity you wish to pursue.

Q Will my previous community involvement count?

A No. Previous volunteer work does not count towards the 40 hours. However, it gives you an advantage over those students who have never volunteered. The contacts you made during previous volunteer experiences may assist you in finding a suitable placement to complete your 40 hours.

Q How can I find out if my volunteer job will be counted as part of my 40-hour community involvement?

A Check the list of eligible activities; if you are still unsure, consult your school principal.

Q How do I keep track of my community involvement?

A The **Activity Record** form contains a separate section called *Completion of Community Involvement Activities* to record all volunteer placements completed during high school. The volunteer requirement is your responsibility. Schools and school boards are not responsible for monitoring or supervising community involvement activities.

Q What should I do with my Activity Record?

A Make a copy of the **Activity Record** form and keep it in a safe place. When you have completed 40 hours of volunteer work, submit the record to your school.

Q What happens if I lose my record?

A You can obtain a new **Activity Record** at www.peelschools.org in "Your Time Counts" in the "Student Stuff" section. If you lose the form containing your community involvement activities, you will have to re-obtain the supervisor's signature for each activity. Without these signatures, the time will not count. It's a good idea to keep separate copies at home and at your volunteer location.

Q How do I know what the best volunteer job is for me?

A It is important to consider your interests and what you wish to gain from your volunteer experience. Discuss your interests and options with your parents, teachers or guidance counsellor.

Q How can I find out more about the community involvement requirement?

A For more information on completing 40 hours of community involvement, talk to your homeroom teacher, the guidance and career education department or visit www.volunteermbc.org.

