

Eligible activities

The Ministry of Education has developed guidelines about what kinds of activities are eligible. Generally, students can complete 40 hours of service in events or activities that meet the following criteria:

- supports not-for-profit agencies, institutions or foundations
- structured programs to promote tutoring, mentoring, visiting, coaching whose purpose is to assist others
- supports work of a global nature
- promotes environmental awareness
- promotes and contributes to the health and well-being of any group
- affiliated with a club, religious organization, arts or cultural association, or political organization that seeks to make a positive contribution in the community
- benefits the community
- any activity not specified as ineligible

Examples of eligible activities include the following:

fundraising – walk-a-thons, celebrity games, gift wrapping, galas

sports/recreation – coaching, track meets, summer games, working with a buddy, pool assistant, organizing special Olympics in the community

community – helping to organize winter carnivals, parades, summer fairs, community events

community projects – helping out at a food bank, support services for community groups

religious organizations – programming for children, child-minding, helping with special events, clerical tasks

seniors' programs – assisting in a seniors' residence or community programs

youth programs and child care – helping to run youth programs such as Scouts, Guides, drop-in centres, breakfast programs, after-school programs, Mark break programs, leaders in training, summer playground activities, camps

work with animals – helping with animal shelters, the local zoo, petting farms

arts and culture – assisting at a gallery, performing music, being involved in a library program

activities for individuals – helping seniors by shopping, reading letters, shoveling snow, visiting chronic care hospitals or helping young people through tutoring, transcribing, reading buddies, respite care

The ministry has said the following activities are *not* eligible:

- student activities that displace paid workers
- any activity where you are normally paid (eg. Babysitting, part-time job)
- "Take Our Kids to Work" experience in grade 9
- job shadowing or a work experience component of a course
- co-operative education experiences
- any required activities of a course or program in which you can earn a credit
- playing on a school sports team
- activities that are regular family responsibilities (eg. regular chores)
- court-ordered community service programs, alternative measures programs or any diversionary program that uses community service
- any activity involving the operation of a vehicle, power tools or scaffolding
- any activity 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 in any working environment (except health and residential care environments)
- activities involving banking, securities or other valuables

As well, the Peel District School Board has determined the following activities to be ineligible:

- 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 activity that does not comply with the policies of the ministry, the Peel board and human rights legislation

For more information:

Talk to your school's Guidance Department or see "Your time Counts" in the Student Staff section of the Peel board web site – www.peelschools.org