

IDEA | EXCHANGE®

So, you need your 40 hours?

Five ways to ensure an awesome experience while you get it!



1. **Consider volunteering a way to test drive the possibilities for your future, and find a volunteer position that puts you where you want to be.** Considering teaching? Volunteer at library programs with kids. Want to be a vet? Find a shelter. Love art? Give your time to a gallery!

2. **Apply early.** Surprisingly, volunteer opportunities can be competitive. Because everyone in high school needs hours, organizations that need volunteers often have more applicants than positions. Don't wait until the last minute or you might have some real trouble.

3. **Use volunteering as to practice for your first job.** Fill in the application form completely and with thought. Show up on time and stay focused. If you've done a good job someone you've volunteered for is a great reference (much better than an aunt or your dad's best friend).

4. **Get your mandatory hours in before the end of grade 10.** Things get busy after that. If you have the time KEEP volunteering! Many college and university hours consider volunteering for entrance and/or scholarships.

5. **Try different tasks.** Volunteering lets you experience new things and meet new people. You never know when you'll discover something that you love.

To join our volunteer team you must have completed grade 8 or be 14 years old, and we must have a volunteer position that is appropriate for your abilities. We welcomes students to apply and interview in the May before they start high school so that they can start that summer.

Why volunteer at Idea Exchange?

- After a welcome interview and orientation session, you will be part of the team for as long as you choose! Get 10 hours, get 400, it's up to you!
- Our online volunteer management system VicNet lets you log in from home, browse for exciting opportunities and book the ones that work for you.
- Our exciting volunteer assignments are constantly changing. Our goal: to help you learn great skills while assisting us to do what we do.
- Volunteer at any Idea Exchange location – or stick to just one.

What will I be doing?

During your volunteer interview we will make decisions in regard to which current positions are a good fit for us both. Teen Volunteer positions include assignments like:

Children's Program Support: Assist during a variety of Idea Exchange children's programs, art classes and birthday parties. Great for teens who want to work with children!

Reading Buddies, French Reading Buddies, Tech Teens: Partner with a young child or elderly person to assist them to learn new skills, whether it be reading, French language or using technology. You know this stuff, now learn to teach it.

Shelf Reading: Help us keep our library shelves in Dewey Decimal System perfection.

Teen Media Team Put your talent to use during Idea Exchange special events and take photos, create video, get photo permissions etc. Send your best pics for use in our social media and marketing.

Teen Writer in Residence/Teen Tastemakers Help us reach the teen community better by sharing your perspective, creating content for our website and assist us to put your ideas in motion.

Please note: not all positions are appropriate for all volunteers or available at all locations. Placements are made at the discretion of the volunteer coordinator. Volunteers may choose one location or all Idea Exchange locations for their time.

How do I get started?

1. Fill in an application online at ideaexchange.org/volunteers
2. Come for an interview so we can figure out which positions work for you
3. Come for a general orientation to learn how things work here.