

St. James-Assiniboia School Division No.2
2574 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg MB R3J 2R9

Community Involvement Activity – Graduation Requirement

Introduction

Effective August 29, 2000 every student who begins secondary school (senior 1) in the St. James-Assiniboia School Division will be 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.

Current research indicates that there is a strong connection with early community involvement activities and a higher level of community volunteerism in adult years.

Participating in community involvement activities enriches the lives of all students. It provides developmental opportunities that promote personal, social and intellectual growth, as well as civic responsibility and career exploration. Many favourable results occur in each of the above noted areas through participation in community involvement activities. These include:

- developing self-confidence and self-esteem
- openness to new experiences and roles
- ability to take risks and accept challenges
- a sense of usefulness and purpose
- ability to working cooperatively with others
- a sense of caring for others
- acceptance and awareness of others from diverse backgrounds
- critical thinking skills
- a sense of responsibility to contribute to society
- awareness of community needs
- human service skills

Students will select one or more 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 will not be paid for performing any community involvement activity.

A parent is not required to sign a form or to be consulted if the student is eighteen years of age or older.

Roles and Responsibilities of Students

In consultation with their parents, students will select an activity or activities taking into account the Division's list of ineligible activities.

A "Community Involvement Activity Log" form must be completed by the student, the student's parent (if the student is under eighteen years of age), and the community sponsor (that is, the person or organization that provided the community involvement opportunity for the student). The student must submit the form to the principal or other school contact upon completion of the 40 hours or at appropriate intervals determined by the principal.

Roles and Responsibilities of Parents

Parents should provide assistance to their child in the selection of their community involvement activities. Parents are also encouraged to communicate with the community sponsor and the school principal if they have any questions or concerns. A parent must sign the "Community Involvement Activity Proposal" form and the "Community Involvement Activity Log" form if the student is under the age of eighteen years.

Roles and Responsibilities of Sponsors in the Community

One of the purposes of the community involvement requirement is to develop strong ties between the students and their community, fostering valuable and long-term relationships. Persons and organizations within the community may be asked by the student to sponsor a community involvement activity. Any 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 "Community Involvement Activity Log" form.

Roles and Responsibilities of Secondary School Principals

Principals are required to provide information about the community involvement requirement to parents, students, and community sponsors. Principals are also required to provide students with the information and forms they will need to complete the community involvement requirement, including the list of ineligible activities. After a student completes the 40 hours of community involvement and submits all documentation of their completion to the school, the principal will decide whether the student has met the community involvement requirement and, if so, will record it as completed on the student's official transcript.

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Ineligible Activities

An ineligible activity is an activity that:

- is a requirement of a class or course in which the student is enrolled (e.g., IB, cooperative education portion of a course, job shadowing, work experience);

- 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 breaks or "spare" periods is permissible;
- takes place in a logging or mining environment, if the student is under sixteen years of age;
- takes place in a factory, if the student is under fifteen years of age;
- takes place in a workplace other than a factory, if the student is under fourteen years of age and is not accompanied by an adult;
- would normally be performed for wages by a person in the workplace;
- involves the operation of a vehicle, power tools, or scaffolding;
- involves the administration of any type or form of medication or medical procedure to other persons;
- involves handling of substances classed as "designated materials" as listed in Manitoba Regulation 53/88 – Workplace Health Hazard Regulation pursuant to the Workplace Safety & Health Act W210
- requires the knowledge of a trades person whose trade is regulated by the provincial government;
- involves banking or the handling of securities, or the handling of jewelry, works of art, antiques, or other valuables;
- consists of duties normally performed in the home (i.e., daily chores) or personal recreational activities;
- involves a court-ordered program (e.g., community-service program for young offenders, probationary program).

Examples of Eligible Activities

- coaching a sport at an area elementary or middle school or community centre
- shoveling snow at your community centre
- assisting a youth group at your place of worship
- acting as a "reading buddy" for a younger school student
- working as a "Candy Stripper" at a local hospital
- cutting lawns, raking leaves or shoveling snow for a neighbour in need
- tutoring another student over the lunch hour or after school
- volunteering as a helper at community events such as "Teddy Bear Picnic", Terry Fox Run, Winnipeg Harvest
- assisting the Christmas Cheer Board