



## Frequently Asked Questions

How do I sign up to be a volunteer?

- \* Volunteering is now easier and quicker than ever!
  1. Check out the Volunteer Calgary website for a volunteer position that matches your skills & interests.
  2. Contact the organization via phone or email and inquire about the position.
  3. You may be asked to send a copy of your resume, come in for an interview, or fill out a few forms. Some positions may require a police clearance, depending on the position or organization you are applying for.

If all goes well, you should start volunteering in no time!

What kind of volunteer positions are there?

- \* Positions are available in almost every area and profession. There are over 5,000 non-profit agencies in Calgary which require the help of volunteers. The Volunteer Calgary website lists various volunteer opportunities from over 450 organizations in Calgary. The most common positions come under the following categories:
  - o *Event Assistance*
  - o *Environmental Protection*
  - o *Animal Care*
  - o *Child Care*
  - o *Office Administration*
  - o *Finance & Accounting*
  - o *Information Technology*

Check out the [www.volunteercalgary.ab.ca](http://www.volunteercalgary.ab.ca) for hundreds of volunteer positions!

How often do you refresh the list of volunteer opportunities on the website?

- \* New volunteer positions are added to the website everyday! If you'd like to get a list of some of the most recent volunteer opportunities each week delivered to your inbox, you may subscribe to the Weekly Volunteer Highlights. Email [communications@volunteercalgary.ab.ca](mailto:communications@volunteercalgary.ab.ca) to subscribe.

How do I volunteer on a board?

- \* Board positions are available on the Volunteer Calgary website under "Boards & Committees". Most board positions require specific skills. Review the position description carefully and make sure that your skills match the requirements to increase your chances of being accepted.

Am I required to commit to a certain number of volunteer hours?

- \* Hours can vary from position to position depending on how much time you have available and what the organization needs. For instance, some organizations only need volunteers on particular mornings or afternoons, while some need them for evenings. It depends on what the position calls for. In any case, you should remember that the hours should always be mutually agreed upon by the organization and you.

How old do I have to be to volunteer?

- \* Nowadays, there are positions available for volunteers of all ages. Age requirement usually depends on the nature of the volunteer position. Generally, positions require people to be 18 years or older to avoid issues relating to safety and privacy. However,

more projects are becoming very youth and family-friendly. Check out the Volunteer Calgary website for these opportunities.

Can I volunteer with my child(ren) under 12?

- \* Again, this would depend on the nature of the volunteer work and what is required of the volunteers. There certainly are positions available which allow parents to volunteer with underage children. The rule of thumb when involving minors in volunteer projects is to always have an adult (a parent or a guardian) present at all times to supervise.

Where can my teenager volunteer to complete volunteer hours for school?

- \* If your search doesn't yield results that seem ideal for your teenager, you may try phoning organizations to ask if they have positions that could use a youth volunteer. There are numerous non-profit organizations that have volunteer opportunities especially for youth. Check out the Volunteer Calgary [member listing](#) to find these organizations and contact them directly to inquire.

Can I volunteer with a large group (10+ individuals)?

- \* Non-profit organizations need all the help they can get. However, there are a lot of factors that an organization needs to consider when engaging a large group of volunteers, such as space & resources. Find a volunteer position that specifically states the requirement for a huge number of helping hands to ensure a meaningful volunteer experience for you and the organization.

Do I need to get a police clearance to volunteer?

- \* It depends on the position that you are applying for. A police clearance is necessary to ensure the safety of a non-profit organization's property and clientele. A police check is a must especially if the volunteer is to be placed in a position of authority or trust or involves the care of a dependent person (e.g. minors, disabled, senior, etc). However, not all volunteer positions require a police clearance. Always check with the organization first before obtaining one.

Can you send someone to speak about volunteerism to my group?

- \* Volunteer Calgary has a Speakers Bureau consisting of volunteers. The Speakers volunteer their time to help promote volunteerism to various groups in the community upon request. If you need a speaker to come, please send an email 3 weeks in advance to [communications@volunteercalgary.ab.ca](mailto:communications@volunteercalgary.ab.ca).

How do I advertise for volunteers on your website?

- \* Posting volunteer positions on the Volunteer Calgary website is an exclusive member benefit. Click [here](#) to learn more about becoming a member organization and its many benefits.

Can Volunteer Calgary send us volunteers?

- \* Volunteer Calgary connects people to volunteer opportunities through the website. We do not work directly to place volunteers within organizations.