



YCDSB
International
Education
Program

DO YOU PLAN TO GRADUATE WITH AN ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL DIPLOMA?

**REMEMBER: YOU WILL NEED
40 HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE!**

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

The province of Ontario requires **every student** to complete 40 hours of Community Service in order to be granted the Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Click on the link below to find out more about approved service activities, how to submit record of completed service hours, and any other guidelines around this graduation requirement.



[Christian Community Service](#)



FINDING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Some international students find it challenging to find volunteer opportunities. The easiest way to get a volunteer position is by reaching out to the organization or group you want to help. Look for their contact details, send them an email introducing yourself, explaining why you want to volunteer, and ask if they have any openings.

If you want to volunteer for a specific place or cause, here are some places to consider reaching out to directly:

- Find charities and non-profit organizations through [Charity Village's volunteer listings](#) (make sure the filters are set to “unpaid volunteer position’ and “40 hour high school program’)
- [Public libraries](#)
- [Parks and Recreation Associations](#) ([Friends of Ontario Parks](#))
- [Community centres](#) ([health centres](#), [senior centres](#), cultural centres, women’s centres, etc.)
- Churches, mosques, temples, and other faith-based organizations
- Animal shelters ([Ontario SPCA and Humane Society](#))
- [Food banks](#)
- [Disaster relief organizations](#)
- Human and civil rights groups

Your school’s Guidance Department may also have an updated list of volunteer opportunities in your local community.

You may also be able to find volunteer opportunities with local organizations that service communities similar to yours. For example, [Hong Fook Mental Health Association](#) has a page for volunteers. They offer services to Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, and Southeast Asian communities. [Catholic Community Services of York Region](#) have settlement and community engagement services for new Canadians.

There are many similar opportunities throughout York Region for students of different backgrounds to volunteer!