



Service - Fact Sheet

Goal: to encourage service to others; to encourage participants to realize that, as members of a community, they have a responsibility to others and that their help is needed.

Objective: Service is commitment to the needs of others without pay. It is hoped that participants will find pleasure and satisfaction in helping others, leading to a lifelong commitment to volunteer community service.

Young people should have the opportunity to:

- appreciate the needs of others
- accept responsibility
- trust and be trusted

- increase self-esteem
- give personal commitment
- understand personal strengths and weaknesses
- activate positive community action
- care for the environment
- feel valued

Requirements: Service should be undertaken on a regular basis as follows:

Bronze -	At least 15 hours, spread over at least 6 months
Silver -	At least 30 hours, spread over at least 6 months (if Bronze level has been completed) or at least 45 hours spread over at least 12 months (for direct entry)
Gold -	At least 60 hours, spread over at least 12 months (if Silver level has been completed) or at least 90 hours, spread over at least 18 months (if direct entry)

Remember...

- Various service projects may be undertaken at each level.
- The 40 hours of voluntary service required in the Ontario high school curriculum can also be counted towards The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, as long as the requirements above are also met.
- Some tasks may be undertaken as part of a group or on an individual basis.
- The service section offers young people a wide choice according to their abilities, personal preferences and the opportunities available.
- The choice of activity should reflect a young person's individual interests, talents and capabilities and it should also build on any previous experiences.

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Assessment:

The Assessor for the service section will normally be the person involved in supervising the practical service. Assessors should review and discuss: the practical services undertaken, paying attention to reliability, competence, relationships and attitudes.

Examples of Service (note: this list is not comprehensive)

CHILDREN: Visiting children in hospitals, tutoring, assisting children with special needs.

- Useful contacts: Local Education and Health Authorities, Local organisations such as Children's Aid Society, Hospitals for Children, Recreations centres, Local Voluntary Organisations, Canadian Feed The Children, Youth Assisting Youth.

ELDERLY PEOPLE: Visiting elderly people in residential homes or their own homes; helping at senior citizen clubs, delivering meals on wheels, gardening, shopping.

- Useful contacts: Nursing homes, Senior's Centres, Hospitals, and other community groups, Meals on Wheels, Ontario Residential Care Association.

PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS: Helping at community centres, special schools, residential homes, compiling talking newspapers for the blind.

- Useful contacts: Organisations such as Easter Seals, March of Dimes, Special Olympics, Ontario Lupus Association, Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy, Ontario Association of the Deaf, Canadian National Organization for the Blind.

OTHER PEOPLE IN NEED: Hospital radio or libraries; working with the homeless; helping at community centres; local support groups; counselling services.

- Useful contacts: Organisations such as Habitat for Humanity, Out of the Cold, YW/YMCA, Association for Community Living.

ENVIRONMENT: Campaigning for improved cycle routes, hiking trail construction, urban conservation projects; improving natural habitats; local community projects.

- Useful contacts: Ontario Ministry of Environment, Community and Neighbourhood Services, Public Health agencies, Greenpeace Canada, SPCA, Hike Ontario, Trans Canada Trail.

FUNDRAISING: Organising and co-ordinating fundraising activities and events.

- Useful contacts: Heart and Stroke Foundation, Canadian Cancer Society, Arthritis Society, Canadian Diabetes Association, Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Canadian Liver Foundation.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: Supporting projects of participant's schools, churches, neighbourhoods.

Useful contacts: Local schools, churches and Breakfast clubs, Canadian Red Cross Society, Association of Ontario Health Centres, Local libraries, Community Health Centres, Community Gardens, Community Kitchens.

