**Volunteer Resources – Frequently Asked Questions**

**Do you have questions about volunteering with the Region of Peel?**

**Find frequently asked questions and answers about volunteering with the Region of Peel here. Simply scroll through the following questions with their associated answer.**

Questions:

**What is the time commitment required for volunteering?**

* A typical volunteer shift is 2 -4 hours per week.
* Long term care positions require a minimum commitment of 60 hours.
* Most Public Health programs require a minimum commitment of 40 hours.
* It usually takes 3 months to complete a 40 hour commitment.
* We also have events and short term volunteer positons.

*Please visit the What do Volunteers do?**page for specific time commitments.*

**I have a few hours to spare sporadically. Can I volunteer?**

* Depending on your availability, you can choose to sign-up for special events or projects. Check out the *Events/Short Term Projects*for current opportunities.

**I know there is a minimum commitment, but can I complete these hours during my summer/winter break by volunteering for longer shifts and/or multiple times a week?**

* No, a typical volunteer shift is 2-4 hours, once a week.

**How old do I have to be to volunteer?**

* 18 years for most Public Health programs.
* 14 years for Long Term Care and Adult Day Services programs.

Visit the *What do Volunteers do?* page for age requirements for specific programs.

**Will you be able to provide me with a reference for employment/other volunteer opportunities/academic applications?**

* Your volunteer supervisor can provide you with a reference or confirmation letter that will be based on your position description and evaluation. Let us know your specific requirements for a reference at the time of your interview.

**I am a senior and retired. Do you have suitable volunteer opportunities for me?**

* Yes we do. Join our team and make a difference! Browse our **What do Volunteers do?** section for opportunities.

**I am a professional by training (i.e. nurse, physician, personal support worker, counselor). Can I practice my professional skills while volunteering?**

* Volunteering will not allow you the opportunity to practise your professional skills. Volunteer roles do not include duties or responsibilities that are performed by a licensed or regulated professional. Volunteers must only do the duties that are outlined in the position description, regardless of any professional background they may have.

**I am a high school student and only need 40 hours. When can I get documentation on my community service hours?**

* You will not receive any documentation until you have completed a minimum of 60 hours of volunteer service.
* Grade 12 students who need their 40 hours to graduate should provide for enough time to complete the required hours.

**How do I become a volunteer?**

*Please see our* ***Before You Apply*** *section.*

1. Review the **Before You Apply** section to understand the time commitment, age, and other requirements for volunteering.
2. Find the opportunity(ies) that are right for you by reading the **What do Volunteers do?** section.
3. Read our **FAQ** section for answers to specific questions.
4. Submit an **online application**.
5. If you are considered a potential candidate, you will be called for an interview.
6. If selected as a potential candidate, you will be asked for references and given the forms for completing the vulnerable sector Police Records Search and TB test ***if required***.
7. Upon successful completion of the interview and all compliance requirements, you will be contacted with information about the Region of Peel volunteer orientation session and be provided with more information about your upcoming volunteer role.

*Submitting an application form and/or attending an interview does not guarantee a volunteer placement.*

**Do I require a police check?**

* A Vulnerable Sector Police Records Search is required for various volunteer placements. It is recommended that you wait until the interview, where you will be provided with the required forms and authorization letter that may allow you to obtain a Police Records Search at less/no cost.

**Do I require a TB test? What is the cost associated and is it covered?**

* If you have been selected for placement in one of our Long Term Care Centres, then you will be required to provide confirmation signed by a health care provider, that you are free of active Tuberculosis (TB). It is recommended that you wait until the interview, when you will be provided with the required forms and instructions.
* The Region of Peel does not cover the costs; discuss this with your health care provider as costs may vary.

**Once I apply, when can I expect a response?**

* We receive many high quality volunteer applications. All applicants who apply online can expect a response within **5 business days** with an update on their volunteer application.

**How long will it take to complete the screening requirements after the interview?**

* Completing the screening requirements after the interview can take several weeks. It depends on how quickly the steps are initiated by *you*. A 2-step TB test takes approximately 2 weeks (required for volunteering in a Long Term Care Centre). A Police Records Search can take anywhere from 2-4 weeks.

**Once I have completed the interview and screening requirements, when can I start volunteering?**

* This depends on what your skills, interests and availability are and whether we have positions available that suit your application. Once you have been approved to start, we will contact you to arrange an orientation.

*Submitting an application form and attending an interview does not guarantee a volunteer placement.*

**Do you cover costs of transportation?**

* Transportation to and from volunteer shifts is your responsibility. The Region of Peel does not cover the cost of transportation.

**I am looking for a student/co-op placement in Public Health. Can I get one through Volunteer Resources?**

* Student practicum or placements in Public Health are not offered through Volunteer Resources. For more information regarding Peel Public Health placements, visit <http://peelregion.ca/health/recruitment/>

**Does volunteering lead to employment at the Region of Peel?**

* Volunteer Resources is not involved in the recruitment or hiring of employees. Volunteering may, however, provide you with experience or exposure that will assist you in finding employment.

Visit our *careers* page for employment opportunities.

**How will Volunteer Resources contact me?**

* We typically contact potential and current volunteers via email.
* If you require alternate methods of communication, please notify us.
* Region of Peel emails may go to your junk mail on occasion. If you are expecting an email and have not heard from us, please check your junk folder.

**Will I receive training?**

* All volunteers will receive a general orientation, as well as task specific training.

**I still have questions!**

* Email your unanswered questions to volunteerresources@peelregion.ca or call us at 905-791-7800 ext 2657.