

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Last updated: January, 2012

Note: Volunteer opportunities are subject to availability.

#	CATEGORY	WHAT	WHERE	WHEN
E1	Environment	Community based environment group that protects and enhances a major watershed through education, bio-monitoring, ecological restoration & community involvement. Each year, volunteers plant more than 15,000 trees, shrubs and wildflowers.	Toronto	April - early November
E2	Environment	Botanical garden that offers themed gardens over several acres. Assist with summer gardening.	Toronto, outside Toronto	May - September
E3	Environment	This grassroots organization engages people in local environmental action for a cleaner, greener city. Help in one of the local community Gardens; with programs for children and the public or in the office.	Toronto	June - September for community gardens. All year for office / advocacy.
E4	Environment	This conservancy is a public garden, park and nature preserve. It provides programs & services in the community in nature, education, stewardship, gardening and horticulture. Volunteers help with gardening, educational programs, events & in the office.	Outside Toronto	May - October
E5	Environment / animals	This organization provides environmental shows and programs geared to inspiring children to protect the natural world. The Animal Care Assistant does not have direct contact with animals but assists with the care of the animal ambassadors. Animal husbandry duties include watering, cleaning, enclosure upkeep, behavioural modification, record keeping etc. Volunteers should not be afraid to touch insects.	Outside Toronto	All year
E6	Environment	Eco friendly house sponsored by a major Ontario city. In addition to the house, there are organic gardens, flower gardens, idling free program, windmill, light bulb program, earthworms for composting.	Outside Toronto	All year
E7	Environment	Large areas of a rich agricultural area are in need of re-forestation. The mission of this organization is to plant 150,000 tree saplings - the minimum needed to maintain good water quality and quantity. Volunteers assist at a tree nursery to plant and prepare seedlings. Learn about propagation of native trees and wildflowers, climate change and the role of trees, ecosystems. Possible interaction with school groups and public groups involved in this massive project.	Outside Toronto	All year

E8	Environment	This organization is committed to promoting an understanding of and appreciation for nature. Volunteers can help with summer camps (July and August) or educational programs for schools (spring and fall). They could also help maintain the ecological health of the area by maintaining trails, building displays and caring for the resident animals.	Outside Toronto	April - November
E9	Environment	Major research reserve works to preserve the natural resources and environment of a region. They offer programs about flora, fauna, hydrology, agricultural practices and geology. Volunteers will assist in the community gardens. Other possible opportunities with trail maintenance and possibly school programs / special events.	Outside Toronto	May - September
E10	Environment	This ecology society provides stewardship for a major urban park through initiatives in education, research and conservation. Opportunities include assisting with programs for schools and the public, assisting at the information building and invasive species removal.	Vancouver	All year but 3 month minimum. Special programs for Halloween (1 month minimum through October 31).
E11	Environment	This nature park works in partnership with a city to deliver natural history programs for children and the public. Volunteers could help with park operations (wildlife garden, trail maintenance, weeding, pruning and special projects), special events and summer camps. Short term volunteers would assist with park operations.	Vancouver	April - October.
E12	Environment/children	This organization provides programs for children to promote environmental awareness through science-based farm learning (sustainable farming).	Vancouver	School programs spring and fall. Summer camps in July & August.
E13	Environment	Help this well respected wilderness preservation organization with research, public outreach & general administration. Trail club activities (e.g. 2 - 4 day weekend excursions outside Vancouver to build a trail or farm) are possible in the spring, summer & fall.	Vancouver	12 months for office work & research. Some trail club excursions are possible in spring, summer and fall.
E14	Environment	This partial woodland garden is recognized as a civic heritage site. Situated on 1.6 acres, it overlooks a lake and has wonderful views of the north shore mountains. The conservancy has been working to restore the garden since 2003. It is a lovely setting to volunteer surrounded by birds, butterflies, dragonflies and other wildlife. Help with restoration and maintenance efforts.	Vancouver	All year for administration. Gardening March - October.
E15	Environment	This major attraction is dedicated to promoting positive attitudes toward science and technology and to promote the development of a knowledge based society. Volunteers help visitors at the exhibits.	Vancouver	School year (not available in summer) and very good English.
E16	Environment	Urban agriculture. This organization is seeking youth who are interested in environmental, social justice, not-for-profit issues. Plant, prune, mulch & weed at local community gardens or help in the office. Get your hands dirty, or not - but be prepared to make a difference!	Vancouver	All year

E17	Environment / fisheries	This fish hatchery & education centre plays a vital role in sustaining fish stocks and creating fish habitat which have been declining since the construction of a local dam. It is located in a beautiful conservation reserve. Volunteers should have an interest in fish and their environment. Help restore the river!	Vancouver	All year
E18	Environment	Volunteers work with the parks department of a major city to visit various city parks and assist the horticulture division. Watering, pruning, planting, weeding & fertilizing of ornamental plants and gardens.	Outside Vancouver	All year. Steel toed safety boots required.
E19	Environment	This public outreach program educates the public about water conservation. Help to educate homeowners about water resources and how to protect them. Volunteers go door to door in the community with a Canadian and are always in a team. Limited opportunities in fall, winter and spring to assist field crews and also with school programs.	Outside Vancouver	Summer
E20	Environment	This magnificent public garden welcomes volunteers to assist with gardening, greeting visitors at the garden and the gate, gift shop steward and tea room server.	Victoria	March - September
E21	Environment	This major horticulture centre has 6 acres of gardens and 93 acres of woodlands. Volunteers help with gardening & special events.	Victoria	All year
E22	Environment	This nature sanctuary is a nature education centre comprising two areas; a marshy lowlands around a lake and rocky, oak-forested highlands. Volunteers can help with trail construction, gardening with native plants, invasive species removal, bird watching, special events, summer camps or special projects for those who prefer to work inside. Short term placements would assist with trail maintenance, habitat rehabilitation and native species removal.	Victoria	All year. Short or long term.
C1	Children	After school programs & drop-in centres including recreational, sports, games, reading, arts & crafts, computers, music, cooking, homework & many others. Day care programs for pre-school children. March break and summer camp programs.	All locations	After school programs early September to 3rd week of June. Day care all year. Camps during March break and July & August.
C2	Children	Assist in classrooms Kindergarten through grade 8, also with gym class and lunch monitoring. This will be of interest primarily to teachers or those wishing to become teachers. Limited availability - special request only.	Outside Toronto, Toronto, Outside Vancouver	Mid September - Mid June, excluding Christmas and March break holidays.
A1	Animals	Provide shelter and care for homeless, abused and abandoned domestic animals until they can be adopted. Activities could include animal socialization, cat cuddling, grooming, feeding, dog walking, cleaning (crates, dishes, laundry etc.), helping with special events e.g. adoptathons, accompanying the animals on vet visits etc.	Toronto, outside Toronto, Vancouver, outside Vancouver, Calgary, Outside Calgary	All year

A2	Animals	This Zoo and Fun Farm has 40 species of tame exotic and domestic animals that feed from visitors hands in an open interactive environment. Help the zookeepers with haying, feeding, cleaning pens, scrubbing buckets & building fences.	Outside Toronto	May - early September
A3	Animals	This children's farm provides an educational form of entertainment for the whole family. Helps children develop a respect for farm animals including goats, miniature horses, donkeys etc. Run with the goats during the goat stampede! Volunteers clean-up, rake pens, provide food & water & assist with grooming.	Victoria	March - early October
A4	Animals	This working farm welcomes over 85,000 visitors each year. They strive to provide enjoyment, education and a recollection of our rural heritage. This offers a unique opportunity for those who love animals and want to learn more about them. Volunteers will be side-by-side with staff who take time to teach them about the care of farm animals and birds.	Vancouver	All year but greatest need in July & August. Conversational English best to benefit from this learning experience.
A5	Animals - wildlife	Unique opportunity to learn about Canadian nature and wildlife / birds. Help care for small birds, owls & bats as part of their research breeding program. Gather data on Bald Eagle nests. Help develop public programming or web based data entry.	Outside Vancouver	All year but opportunities limited. Two months minimum preferred.
A6	Animals	This rescue for sea mammals (sea lions, otters, seals etc.) provides support until they can be rehabilitated and released. Volunteers help with enclosure cleaning, kitchen duty (thawing fish), feeding, helping with examinations and possibly going out on rescues.	Vancouver	All year but 6 week minimum and good English. Limited opportunities in summer - best opportunities September through May.
A7	Animals/Conservation	Canada's largest Aquarium is also a premiere attraction! They are committed to the conservation of aquatic life. Volunteers greet visitors and answer questions in the galleries.	Vancouver	All year but 6 week minimum and good English.
A8	Animals/Conservation	This aquarium and marine education centre focuses on the ecosystem of the Salish Sea. Oceaneers guide & provide information about the marine exhibits and assist with educational programs through the year. Or help behind the scenes with husbandry operations.	Victoria area	All year but 8 week minimum and good English.
CS1	Seniors	Seniors in-residence retirement homes. Duties could include walking, visiting, helping with meals, transport via wheelchair, assisting with recreational activities including games, bingo, social events etc.	All locations	All year
CS2	Seniors	Assist more active seniors with recreational programs at community centres including, exercise, sports, special events etc.	Toronto, Outside Toronto	All year
CS3	Disabled children & adults / animals	This organization enhances the quality of life for disabled children and adults through equestrian therapy (horse riding for the disabled). Duties depend on experience but could include horse care (cleaning, feeding, grooming, tacking), leaders (working with the horses), sidewalkers (working with the riders).	Outside Toronto, Victoria	All year

CS4	Children with special needs	This organizations provides programs for children with spina bifida, downs, cerebral palsy, autism, muscular dystrophy, speech impairments, hearing loss. Volunteers can provide support to therapists and families, assist with special events, admin support, equipment. Mandatory proof of immunization is required along with TB test (contact Red Leaf for list of specific immunizations required).	Outside Toronto but programs are in different locations in the same community	All year but short term preferred.
CS5	Youth shelter	Social work, community outreach, teens at risk, young mothers. Volunteering with homeless and troubled youth as well as young mothers.	Outside Toronto	All year
CS6	Youth centre	This organization provides emergency shelter for 16 - 24 year old homeless and at-risk youth. In addition to providing safe shelter, they offer an employment program, housing help, a drop-in centre and an outreach worker. Volunteers help mainly with administration, events etc.	Toronto	All year
CS7	First aid and injury prevention	This humanitarian organization offers community outreach programs in first aid, CPR, injury prevention, babysitting, youth programs, water safety, health equipment etc. Assist with research projects and with community programs / events. This placement will be of interest particularly to those interested in the health care field e.g. becoming a paramedic, nurse, doctor.	Outside Toronto	May 1 - September 30. Three month minimum.
CS8	Services for the Deaf	This organization offers services and educational programs to promote self-reliance within the Deaf, deafened and hard of hearing community. They welcome both Deaf and hearing members of all ages. Volunteers could help with the literacy program. A little sign language would be helpful, or the willingness to learn. English level intermediate.	Outside Toronto	All year
CS9	Adults with developmental disabilities	Be a program assistant for adults with development disabilities. Longtime learning programs include current events, computers, communication, nutrition and much more!	Victoria	All year
CS10	Food banks	Neighbourhood food banks fight to end hunger in local communities. Help to sort food that is donated. Some opportunities in advocacy for volunteers interested in social work / social services.	Toronto, Outside Toronto, Vancouver, Outside Vancouver	All year
CS11	Food for international relief organizations	This organization collects surplus agricultural produce, processes it into soup packets and fruit snacks for distribution to relief organizations around the world. Clean, dice, dry, mix and bag onions, carrots, peas, broccoli, cauliflower, peppers, beans, apples and pears and help feed the hungry!	Outside Toronto	All year

CS12	Re-stores	Re-stores are retail warehouses specializing in new and used donated construction / renovation materials (kitchen cabinets, appliances, lighting, bathroom fixtures, flooring, doors, windows & some furniture). Materials are sold to the general public to help fund administrative costs associated with the building of affordable housing in partnership with low income families. Volunteers help in the stores, with materials handling when items arrive on the truck and with cleaning.	Toronto (3 month minimum), outside Toronto	All year
CS13	Thrift stores	Thrift stores accept donations of new and gently used clothing, furniture and household items and re-sell them with proceeds supporting local charities. Help with intake, sorting and helping the public.	Toronto, Outside Toronto, Vancouver, Victoria	All year
CS14	Community Service, Animal Care, Environmental	Journey back in time to discover life in early Ontario! This village spans 30 acres and is an example of a typical community that would have been found in the Toronto area in the 1800's. Become immersed in the lifestyles, customs and surroundings of early residents who built the foundations for modern Toronto. Many opportunities including sewing historic costumes (must be able to sew by hand and use a basic sewing machine), gardening, livestock (farm animals), maintaining historic buildings, woodworking, clerical and artifacts registration (inventory and records), help to prepare for special events etc.	Toronto	May - December with 4 week minimum and intermediate level English. Some positions require steel toed safety boots.