

Volunteer and Make A Difference in Your Community Today

Employment & Immigrant Services

Programs & Time Commitment	Newcomer Orientation Week (NOW) When: 2 weeks before the start of school (9-day commitment-54 Community Services Hours) Where: Two high schools in St. Catharines and two in Niagara Falls (Must be a student at one of the schools) Who We Serve: Newly arrived high school students across Niagara Purpose: Help newcomer students start school with confidence Role: • Welcome and guide newcomer youth through orientation sessions • Share your own experiences as a student • Help explain the Canadian school system • Support icebreaker games and team-building activities • Peer Leaders with lived newcomer experience are especially encouraged to apply! JOYN PROGRAM (Join Our Youth Network) When: Weekly during the school year Where: Two secondary schools in Niagara Falls Purpose: Promote inclusion, cultural exchange, and friendships between newcomer and Canadian-born youth Role: • Help run fun, inclusive activities • Encourage participation and connection • Create a safe, welcoming space for all youth • Celebrate and support cultural diversity SUMMER PLAY PROGRAM When: Weekdays in July & August (8 weeks) Where: Niagara Falls Who We Serve: Newcomer children ages 5–13 Purpose: Offer a fun, safe, and camp-style experience with games, crafts, and cultural activities Role: • Support children in daily activities • Practice leadership and teamwork • Help create a positive environment • Gain your first Canadian volunteer or work experience
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Why Volunteer for the YMCA?

The YMCA is a charity dedicated to building healthy communities. The YMCA of Niagara delivers programs in Health, Fitness and Aquatics, Community Outreach, Child Care, Day Camp and Employment & Immigrant Services throughout the Niagara Region. We are committed to nurturing the potential of children, youth, and families, promoting healthy living, and fostering social responsibility within the community. Our focus on inclusiveness and accessibility means we serve people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities through all stages of life.

NATURE & SCOPE

Volunteers can help people grow in many ways that are consistent with the YMCA's mission of building body, mind and spirit. Volunteers can also earn **community service hours**, develop **real-work leadership experience**, build friendships and have fun. Volunteers can make a real difference in the lives of newcomer children and youth.

EXPECTATIONS:

- Be reliable, respectful, and punctual.
- Bring a positive attitude and willingness to help.
- Work well with peers, staff, and children/youth.
- Respect diverse cultures and lived experiences.
- Be open to learning and growth.
- To follow all YMCA policies including the Child, Youth and Vulnerable Person Protection Policy and Procedures.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Youth aged 14-22 years old.
- Interest in helping others and learning leadership skills.
- Experience as a newcomer is a strong asset (especially for Orientation Week).
- Ability to speak another language is an asset but not required.
- Commitment to attending all required sessions and training.
- 18+ must provide a clear and satisfactory criminal record check inclusive of the vulnerable sector search (CRC VSS) issued for the YMCA of Niagara.
- Interview and 3 references will be required.

TRAINING:

All volunteers will receive training in WHMIS (Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System), AODA (Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act), Bill 168 (Violence and Harassment in the Workplace), Health and Safety Awareness, Child Safety and Leadership Skills.

First Aid/CPR (Only for Summer Play Program)

APPLICATION PROCESS

Complete an online volunteer application at <https://ymcaofniagara.org/volunteer/opportunities/> or print the application and drop it off at your local Employment & Immigrant Services office.

Accessibility accommodations and material in alternative formats for individuals with disabilities can be arranged upon request.

For more information for this and other opportunities at the YMCA of Niagara please visit our website: www.ymcaofniagara.org