

So You Want to Volunteer?!

First: Think!

What are you interested in? How much time do you have? Do you have a skill that an organization can benefit from? Do you want to learn or practice a new skill?

Finding a great experience is all about fit for you and the organization. Volunteer opportunities have different time commitments and expectations and a great match works best for everyone.

Second: Find!

Search for an opportunity on the Propellus Volunteer Connector. You can search by postal code, time commitment, activities, causes, etc.

Now What?

Each organization has a different process that you will have to do, it may include;

Application- online or in person, check the posting or organization website. Resume (Need help with your resume? The Government of Alberta provides workshops

<https://ers.humanservices.alberta.ca/AW-ResumeWriting.aspx> .

Need a computer? You can access computers at the [Calgary Public Library](#).

Interview-Once an organization receives your application you will be contacted for an interview if you are a match for the organization. This might occur over the phone, in person or in a group.

Screening- You might be asked to go through or provide any of the following:

References

What if I'm new to Canada? Email is often the most efficient way to contact a reference and is borderless. If there is a language barrier perhaps a translated letter of reference can help. What if I have never worked? References are people who have observed professional behaviour (being on time or being organized). Someone like a coach, teacher or neighbor who you have done something for is appropriate.

A Police Information Check (with or without vulnerable sector search)

Police Checks can be obtained online through Calgary Police Service (EPIC) or in person at any district office

Child Welfare Check

If you are asked to complete this your organization will provide you with a form to fill out, it will be mailed to Family and Child Services and then mailed back to you.

Confirmation of qualifications or certifications; a copy of your certification if required example: CPR C, Standard First Aid, Certified Coach.

Orientation/Onboarding - Once you are screened and selected as a volunteer for an organization you will receive training for your position and the organization to set you up for a successful experience.

Finally- How long should all of this take?

Depends on the position and organization, some positions require a lot of screening and orientation, others require less.