



## Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations

### Employer Supported Volunteering

Getting your group ready for community volunteering

“Employer-Supported Volunteering is any activity undertaken by an employer to encourage and support volunteering in the community by its employees.”

-Kenn Allen (2012), *The Big Tent: Corporate Volunteering in the Global Age*

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### The Benefits of Employer Supported Volunteering

- Strengthen businesses community relationships
- Improve employee engagement
- Give non-profits access to new resources and skills
- Enhance and refine employee skills
- Expand businesses networks

#### TYPES OF EMPLOYER-SUPPORTED VOLUNTEERING

Skills-based volunteering / Pro Bono work / Secondments

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Personal volunteering on own time, supported by employer (e.g., Dollar for Doers; flex-time; paid time off)

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Workplace activity (volunteering on company premises, including online volunteering and micro projects)

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Mentoring and other one-to-one support

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Board governance / Other leadership opportunities

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Team or group volunteering

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*Types of Employer-Supported Volunteering via Volunteer  
Canada*

## Did you know?

Nonprofit organizations face a unique struggle when large groups of volunteers approach them. Organizations with limited resources, budget and capacity find it challenging manage a large group volunteer activity. Nonprofit organizations also report it challenging to find groups who understand volunteering, desire to help meet organization's needs rather than their own and who are flexible with time and tasks.

### Before you approach an organization or volunteer centre consider the following questions:

1. What cause do you want to support?
  - a. Talk to your team and decide on a specific cause your team wants to support. This will help narrow down your search and make it easier to find a valuable volunteer experience.
2. Does the organization have the capacity to host teams of volunteers?
  - a. How big is your team? Is it too big for an organization? Are there multiple days your team could volunteer by breaking up into groups to make it easier for the organization?
3. Do my employees require screening or training for the activity?
  - a. Talk to the organization and see how you can help them to screen or orient your team before they begin volunteering
4. Does the proposed activity or program support organizational priorities or does it divert attention from their mission?
  - a. Oftentimes organizations have to "think up" an activity for groups to do. Take a look at their mission and ask them what their biggest need is. Be flexible- oftentimes your volunteer activity may not be on the frontline but the impact of your contribution will help further their mission and cause.
5. Is there a basis for building a longer-term relationship?
  - a. Build a relationship with the organization and explore the possibility of regular volunteering and collaboration with your business

### Resources & References

- [Leading with Intention: Employer Supported Volunteering in Canada](#) — A resource that examines the benefits and challenges to ESV and provides examples of different businesses that volunteer as a group successfully
- [Group Volunteering: Key Resources for Groups Wanting to Volunteer](#) — Tips for finding a group volunteer opportunity and other resources.
- [Canadian Institute for Business and Community Engagement](#) — Provides businesses and non-profit organizations with tools and resources for corporate community investment, through a Canadian lens.