PARENT-GUARDIAN VOLUNTEER HOUR PROGRAM, 2025-26

Rationale

TDChristian High School is a learning community with students from families from all over the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). Families send their children because they believe TDChristian is a place where their children belong – where they can learn for service in the light of God's Word.

TDChristian is supported by a wide community of people – alumni, past families, churches, and other people who believe that Christian high school education is important for our local and global communities, as well as each student. Their contributions help lower tuition fees for all families who send their children to TDChristian.

Another way tuition is reduced is through the ***Parent-Guardian Volunteer Hours Program*** which requires families to volunteer 25 hours of time in a host of areas (see the list below) throughout the school and throughout the school year. Some families choose to opt out by paying a $1,200 fee, either in a lump sum or by having it added to their tuition.

Besides helping with tuition, having parents and guardian in the school and involved in school activities enhances the TDChristian community. Staff and students see parents and guardians and they see us in action. With people coming from all over the GTA, getting together and working towards the same goals is good for us. We are better when we work together!

Opportunities

TDChristian offers many programs and there are many ways to contribute from home, at school, at the Fire Hall Thrift Store, or via a combination of these. Besides those listed below, *Volunteer Opportunities* are posted in *The Week@TDChristian*, emailed on most weekends to all parents and guardians. We also plan to advertise opportunities under the Volunteering icon on the Splash! Page. Contact the people listed to find out more and to determine how you can volunteer in that area.

Volunteer Opportunity	**Contact Person**	**Hours**
Coaching/assisting with sports teams (includes coaching and/or organizational tasks) *See Athletics icon on Splash! Page for sports offered*.	Athletic Director, Jonathan Fernhout jfernhout@tdchristian.ca	Up to 25 hours
Running or supporting a club (during lunch or outside of school hours) e.g., Robotics, Fitness Club, Bible Study	Vice Principal, Rachel Petrusma petrusma@tdchristian.ca	Up to 25 hours
Fall Market • Set up (e.g., organization, getting auction donations, picking up produce) • Help on the day (e.g., working at booths, serving food, parking control, clean up)	Look for opportunities in *The Week@TDChristian*, or under Volunteering on the Splash! Page	Up to 5 hours per day

Volunteer Opportunity	Contact Person	Hours
Attending Meetings (e.g., New Families, Future Directions, High School Culture Night, Membership Meetings, Careers & Courses Night)	Attend the event and fill in the feedback form	2 or 2.5 hours per family, per meeting
Attending the Will Clinic (free, no obligation, organized by Christian Schools Foundation with the help of Christian Stewardship Services)	Sign up for the event when announced in *The Week@TDChristian* or under Volunteering on the Splash! Page.	1.5 hours
Driving students to games, competitions, events, field trips, or other school activities *See Policy under Forms & Info Sheets on the Splash! Page*.	As arranged with your child(ren)'s coach, teacher, or supervisor or in response to a note in *The Week@TDChristian*	Up to 25 hours
Supervising a Field Trip	Look for opportunities in Edsby or *The Week@TDChristian*	Up to 6 hours per field trip
Participating and Providing Feedback on Presentation Days (one per semester) *Attend classes and share your thoughts on paper or in conversations with students.*	Sign up via the links provided in *The Week@TDChristian*	1.5 hours per class (up to 12 hours per year)
Saturday Clean Up Day Crew (9 a.m. to Noon) Oct. 19, Nov. 30, Feb. 1, more in sem. 2 Tasks include dusting, replacing ceiling tiles, and cleaning desks, classrooms, school store, windows, and locker tops. If you want to be the group's organizer, email pitts@tdchristian.ca.	Sign up via the links provided in *The Week@TDChristian*	Up to 3 hours per clean up day
Art Room Cleaning (once per month – 2 or 2.5 hours) Ideally one family or person who cleans sinks, tables, chairs, and floor	Art Teacher, Matt Brown brown@tdchristian.ca	Up to 25 hours
Building Maintenance e.g., changing ceiling tiles, hanging items, odd jobs, changing lights/ballasts	Facilities Manager, D.J. Pitts pitts@tdchristian.ca	Up to 25 hours
Building Support e.g., we have people we can contact to get plumbing advice and fire inspection advice	Facilities Manager, D.J. Pitts pitts@tdchristian.ca	As arranged with D.J.
Assembly Chair Set Up (16 times in the year) ideally by a regular team of volunteers • Set up 500 chairs in the commons between 7 and 8:30 a.m. on an assembly day • If you want to be the group's organizer, email pitts@tdchristian.ca.	Facilities Manager, D.J. Pitts pitts@tdchristian.ca	Up to 2 hours per time
School Store Cash Come at lunch to do cash at the school store; choose a day and come weekly	Food Services, Elaine Roorda roorda@tdchristian.ca	Up to 25 hours

Volunteer Opportunity	Contact Person	Hours
Filling Vending Machines Done once a week (1 to 1.5 hours) before 8:30 a.m. or at 2:40 p.m.	Food Services, Elaine Roorda roorda@tdchristian.ca	Up to 25 hours
Support for Drama e.g., costumes, set building	Director, Richard Peters peters@tdchristian.ca	Up to 25 hours
Ticket Sales Support and Supervision for the School Play e.g., Taking and selling tickets at the event, ushering, supervising the foyer	House Manager, Laura Girgenti girgenti@tdchristian.ca	Up to 3 hours per event
Guest Speaker for a Class e.g., human resources, accounting, about your work or life experience	VP of Learning, Anneke Gretton gretton@tdchristian.ca	Up to 2 hours per class
Mentor to a Grade 11 student for a Mentorship Placement (A mentor serves as a student guide, resource, and contact during a two- or three-day work experience in Oct. or Mar.) *Note: Mentors need to be approved by the student's parent or guardian.*	Teacher, Sean Van Eerden vaneerden@tdchristian.ca	Up to 6 hours per day (18 hours total)
Clerical help or Committee Work at TDChristian e.g., help with mailings, serving on an ad hoc or other Board or Admin Committee	Look for opportunities in *The Week@TDChristian*, or under Volunteering on the Splash! Page	Up to 3 hours per time
Cooking for or serving food at staff lunches on Project Days eight times per year, usually Fridays (hours tallied by parent leader)	TBD	Up to 25 hours
Event Set Up and Help e.g., preparation, set up, serving, and/or clean up at evening and day events from Sept. to June (e.g., Grade 7&8 Day, Membership Meetings, Grandparents Day, Graduation)	Parent, Nicole Mast tdchhospitality@gmail.com	Up to 6 hours depending on the event
Baking or Cooking for Events Homemade baking or cooking for events as set out in the Baking/Cooking Policy	Parent, Ruth Alkema tdchristianbaking@gmail.com	1 or 2 hours (depends on items)
Prayer Group Meetings and Praying Attend weekly Zoom meetings on Wed. nights and pray for the school, students, families, events, and staff (includes thanksgiving, supplication, praise, and more)	Parent, April Merson tdchprayer@gmail.com	0.5 hour per meeting per family
Volunteering at the Fire Hall Thrift Store You must be trained and approved by Store Manager, Sandra Allen *Space is limited as the store looks for people who ideally do more than 25 hours per year*	Store Manager, Sandra Allen (read The *Week@TDChristian* for opportunities or visit the store to inquire)	Up to 25 hours
Bus Reps Liaisons between families with students on a specified bus and the Transportation Coordinator. It includes work in August and September confirming bus families' information.	Transportation Coordinator, Marissa Straatsma straatsma@tdchristian.ca	10 hours per bus

Volunteer Opportunity	Contact Person	Hours
Recruiting or recommending non-feeder school students to TDChristian	Admissions Director, Marissa Straatsma straatsma@tdchristian.ca	Up to 10 hours per qualifying family
YOUR idea to make TDChristian better	Principal, Joel Dykxhoorn dykxhoorn@tdchristian.ca	To be determined

Process

1. Determine where and how you will volunteer. Reach out to the contact. When done your hours, ensure your hours are tracked using one of the following methods:
    a. Signing a volunteer sheet provided by your supervisor.
    b. Following the process outlined for the activity e.g., baking
    c. Completing a Feedback Form (e.g., at meetings, Presentations Day)
    d. Emailing the supervisor and volunteering@tdchristian.ca with what you have done. e.g., driving students, mentoring. The supervisor will have to confirm the hours by replying all.
2. TDChristian will track the hours and the type of hours via our new system, Axiom. We plan to email the number of hours you have earned up to four times this year. Since it is a new program for TDChristian, look for more announcements in THE WEEK@TDChristian and/or by clicking the Volunteering icon on the Splash! Page. TIP: Track your hours on the Parent-Guardian Tracking sheet for your own records.
3. During the first week of June 2026, we will send you a message indicating that you have completed your hours or, if you have not completed your 25 hours, an invoice for the outstanding amount.
4. If you have any questions regarding your hours (NOT how many you have), email volunteering@tdchristian.ca.

Guidelines

1. The volunteer year for 2025-26 will run from June 1 to May 31 (e.g., June 1, 2025 to May 31, 2026).
2. All families (except TDChristian employees) are required to complete 25 hours. Single parents are required to do 12.5 hours.
3. Hours completed in the volunteer year go towards the current school year and cannot be transferred to the following year as we wish to ensure there are enough volunteer hours available for all families. Volunteering for more than 25 hours is wonderful, especially for the many who do so to make TDChristian better for our students' learning and experiences. As God does, we appreciate cheerful givers!
4. Hours cannot be transferred from one family to another.
5. The aim is to have parents and guardians complete the volunteer hours. However, with prior arrangement and permission, adult children or relatives may complete hours (e.g., costumes for the play, Saturday clean up but NOT meeting hours).
6. If you have any questions about completing your hours and how we might help or assist you, email volunteering@tdchristian.ca.

You count on us! We count on you!

TDChristian Volunteer Hours FAQ

Q. What are volunteer hours, and why is this an expectation at TDChristian?
A. TDChristan is supported by a wide community of people – alumni, past families, churches, and other people who believe that Christian high school education is important for our local and global communities, as well as each student. Their contributions help lower tuition fees for all families who send their children to TDChristian.

Another way tuition is reduced is through the Parent-Guardian Volunteer Hours Program. We are blessed to have many willing and talented parents in our community that help in many ways to keep costs down in various areas.

Besides helping with tuition, having parents and guardian in the school and involved in school activities enhances the TDChristian community. Staff and students see parents and guardians and they see us in action. With people coming from all over the GTA, getting together and working towards the same goals is good for us. We are better when we work together!

For a more thorough overview of the Parent-Guardian Volunteer Hour program, go to https://tdchristian.ca/splash/volunteer/

Q. How many volunteer hours are required per family?
A. Each family at TDChristian is asked to complete 25 or more hours/ year. Single parents are required to do 12.5 hours.

Q. What is the time frame for completing hours?
A. The volunteer year will run from June 1 to May 31 (e.g., June 1, 2025 to May 31, 2026).

Q. Can volunteer hours be completed at the Fire Hall Thrift Store?
A. Yes! Fire Hall Thrift is across the parking lot from TDChristian and it is a great way to get involved with the school in a fun, retail space!

Q. What are some ways to get involved volunteering at TDChristian?
A. There are a couple of places to find opportunities to volunteer here at TDChristian. The best place to start is by checking the Volunteer section on the Family and Student Splash page: https://tdchristian.ca/splash/volunteer/.

Also be sure to check our weekly newsletter called *The Week @ TDChristian*, as we often advertise opportunities there.

Q. What if fewer than 25 hours are completed?
A. You will be credited for the hours completed, and TDChristian will assess the remaining hours at a rate of $48/ hour.

Q. Is it possible to opt out of volunteer hours?
A. Some families choose to opt out by paying the $1,200 volunteer assessment fee.

Q. If I complete extra hours this year, can I carry over volunteer hours to next school year?
A. No. Hours completed in the school year go towards the current school year to ensure there are enough volunteer hours available for all families. If you are compelled to volunteer over 30 hours, that's wonderful, but please do so in the spirit of selfless giving.

Q. How do I submit my completed hours?
A. Determine where and how you will volunteer. Reach out to the contact. When done your hours, ensure your hours are tracked using one of the following methods:

a. Signing a volunteer sheet provided by your supervisor.
b. Following the process outlined for the activity e.g., baking
c. Completing a Feedback Form (e.g., at meetings, Presentations Day)
d. Emailing the supervisor and volunteering@tdchristian.ca with what you have done. e.g., driving students, mentoring. The supervisor will have to confirm your hours by replying all.

Q. How do I know how many hours I have completed?
A. TDChristian will track the hours and the type of hours via our new system, Axiom. We plan to email the number of hours you have earned up to four times this year. During the first week of June 2026, we will send you a message indicating that you have completed your hours or, if you have not completed your 25 hours, an invoice for the outstanding amount. We also recommend that you keep track of your own hours!

Q. Can I transfer my hours to another family if I have completed extra?
A. No, volunteer hours are non-transferable as our desire is for all families to be committed to the volunteer program to the best of their ability.

Q. I still have questions. Where do I ask those?
A. If you have questions about completing your hours, concerns about completing hours, assistance in completing your hours, or anything else related to volunteer hours, please email volunteering@tdchristian.ca and someone from the school will get back to you.