



University of Guelph Student Volunteerism & Student Volunteer Connections Survey

November 2009
to December 2009

Student
Volunteer
Connections

www.uoguelph.ca/~svc

519.824.4120 ext. 58104

Survey Results

surveys completed	187 (over 1% of student population of UoG)
students who volunteer	134 (71.66%)

[TOP CHOICE]

[SECOND TOP CHOICE]

General

1. Where have you lived for the majority of your life?

	185 Answered	2 Skipped
a) Guelph		15
b) Toronto/ GTA		61
c) Ontario excluding a) & b)		85
d) Other		27
Other		
China Calgary (x3) UK Romania East Coast		
Sudbury New Jersey BC Middle East Nova Scotia		
New Brunswick Bolivia Mexico Ireland Australia		
Bermuda Victoria, BC Dallas Texas		

2. What type of student are you?

	185 Answered	2 Skipped
Undergraduate, Year 1		42
Undergraduate, Year 2		44
Undergraduate, Year 3		41
Undergraduate, Year 4		36
Undergraduate, Year 5+		17
Undergraduate, Mature		6
Graduate, Masters		6
Graduate, PhD		4
University Faculty Member		0
University Staff Member		5



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Commitments

1. How many hours do you commit to school each week (on average) ?

180 Answered	7 Skipped
a) 0-10	12
b) 10-20	41
c) 20-30	71
d) 30-40	38
e) 40+	23

2. From the list below, What 3 areas do you most regularly partake in most outside of school-related commitments?

	182 answered	5 skipped		
Commitments	Top 1	Top 2	Top 3	Total
Socialize	67	34	34	135
Study/ Research	23	33	27	83
Volunteer	21	34	36	91
Work/Job	29	17	11	57
Leisure/ hobby	27	34	31	92
Travel	0	3	19	11
Shop	2	3	11	16
Sports/ Physical Activity	13	26	25	64



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Volunteerism

1. In regards to what a volunteer is participating in, what sounds most appealing to you? (2 choice limit)

172 answered 15 skipped	
a) Social Action	60
b) Community participation	60
c) Volunteerism	34
d) Voluntary Involvement	23
e) Civic Engagement	26
f) Unpaid Work	5
g) Community Involvement	99
h) Community Service	32
i) Other	4
Other International service, Community engagement , Animal rights, working with animals	

2. Do you Volunteer? If ANSWER IS NO, ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:

Which of the following are barriers for you to volunteer?

61 answered 126 Skipped	
a) Transportation	21
b) Lack of information	16
c) Time commitments	41
d) Financial obligations	11
e) Not sure of ways to get involved	27
f) Lack of motivation	19
g) other:	4
Other Language, Lack of interesting volunteer opportunities, Not knowing anyone else involved, Work includes volunteer component	



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3. Do you Volunteer? IF YES, ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:
Where would you/do you go for volunteer opportunities?

134 Answered 53 Skipped	
a) flyers/handouts/promotional gear	39
b) SVC office	17
b) Guelph-Wellington Volunteer Centre	18
c) Bulletin Boards/ postings/posters	56
d) Internet	69
e) listservs/emails	67
f) friends/colleagues	89
g) iCAN – www.ican.uoguelph.ca	11
h) other	12
Other Past volunteer locations from hometown (Red Cross, United Way, soup kitchen), Volunteering cluster in residence, Word of mouth, I went to student life and CSA clubs and then just got connected to various groups and opportunities there, CSA HRO, OPRIG, GRCGED and other community organizations and listservs, Go to the places to see in person, Interhall / my RA, Mass emails from the ID program coordinator, OPIRG, Clubs Days, Church, I ask organizations I know of if they need any help	

4. Do you Volunteer? IF YES, ANSWER THE FOLLOWING: Why do you volunteer?

131 Answered 56 Skipped	
a) Skill building/ Experience	99
b) Social networking (to meet people)	72
c) To make a difference	107
d) Peer-Pressure	2
e) Learn about a specific issue	37
f) to give back (use your already gained skills/experience)	92
f) Other	10
Other It is our social responsibility, Fun, Fun!, Passionate about it, Have fun and help others, Fun ; break from school work, Help those who are in need, It's a rewarding and an enjoyable use of time	



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Student Volunteer Connections

1. Which of the following Student Volunteer Connections' services /programmes have you attended or used?

165 Answered 22 Skipped	
a) Volunteer Referral	10
b) Volunteer Showcase	24
c) PSAC	9
d) PDR (Funding)	26
e) Resource Library	18
f) Social Action Series	6
g) iCAN	15
h) None	98

2. As a student, volunteer, and/or member of a non-profit organization, what type of programming, resources, or services would you like to see SVC implement for you?

(You may include specifics, ex. a certain book/event, and as many as you feel fit)

58 answered – 129 skipped

volunteer day in the UC, showcasing all sorts of volunteer opportunities, or if this already exists, advertising it better

Some kind of course/session demonstrating how to best spend your volunteering hours in order to best implement them for your future (ex: if I wanted to be a doctor, what volunteer opportunities should I take and how should I present them in the best light?)

More options for students with disabilities

finding a good program fit by connecting volunteers with partners

idk?

time management

Do my homework for me so I can spend more time volunteering... Just kidding.

interactive website

More during the day volunteering for those who's school schedule is mostly in the late afternoon/evening

Advertising themselves. I had no clue this even existed, and I've been looking for different places to volunteer with limited success.



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leadership resources (books, blogs, films, etc), workshops (advanced), best practices in school clubs

Unsure, haven't thought about it.

A listserv, maybe a biweekly update of volunteer positions. I go searching when I want to volunteer somewhere, but most don't go to the effort so if you go to them via email you'd probably get a better response.

information about short time commitment volunteer opportunities more than long term

make itself more aware

I think it is important to be more critical of overseas programming. I have found SVC is happy to help promote volunteer programs, but I have seen the damage many of these programs to do and how they are advertised as "helping" when really they are all about the student's experience and not about what impact they might have (when often the impact they have is negative). I think SVC would be more credible in my eyes if they stepped away from the super-positive approach to volunteerism as a whole, and broadcast a more realistic volunteerism that has its basis on awareness.

Free cookies.

appear to be doing a great job as is

Maybe a listserve of volunteer opportunities from community events, clubs and organizations.

workshop on how to juggle volunteer commitments with school or work commitments

volunteer opportunities with animals!

a mixed event including both community volunteer opportunities and on campus volunteer opportunities

Information Sessions on why volunteering is important and how students can benefit. Have another showcase and invite as many on and off campus groups possible to show the opportunities available

more community involvement, not just service projects

services that are not only directed at those in hospitals or "environmentally geared"

I cannot really think of anything specific. That and I am confused by the question. Sorry.

Maybe more awareness of the opportunities available, a volunteer fair more than once a semester, conferences

more ways of educating the student about organizations.

A way to get involved in one-off events. Repeat attendance on a fixed schedule keeps a lot of individuals away. Some sort of online system where you could choose "I can help out for 4 hours this week/weekend" and you'll have options to choose from.



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mass emails about volunteer opportunities

Events like Project Serve run through Civic and Community Engagement are great. Some day such as that?

it would be great if you had a section on the uog home page so everyone can see what's available and when.

N/A

May already exist, but things related to animals.

Activism volunteer work, towards equality and inclusiveness (like utilising the day against homophobia)

I'm fine as is.

I am not certain, since I haven't used any of the offered services

The ability to get one on one help finding specific volunteer experience.

Volunteer opportunities for nutrition students

events or booths

More information via email and perhaps more volunteer fairs.

focus on campus volunteer events - ie pair with other resources around campus to promote a broader variety of opportunities. for example, i wish i had known about the peer helper program before this semester. now, because of their 3 semester commitment i cannot get involved. i always love getting emails from SVC, but i feel as though if you're not on the right listserves you miss a lot of emails. u of g should combine their resources so more people get involved and perhaps SVC can help put these together to make it easier for students to get involved!

Increased PDR funding, more events, some on campus volunteer opps

I think you are doing a great job already!

more interaction with students.