



Volunteering: Questions to Ask

You want to volunteer for a non-profit organization? The organization must ensure volunteers respect their responsibilities, even if they aren't paid. Here are some things volunteers should check to make sure they understand their role.

Understand the organization

- ☐ The organization's mission: What are the values and mission of the organization? Do you identify with them?
- ☐ Place: Where will you be volunteering? Is the place easily accessible and safe?



Recruitment and training

- ☐ Checks by the organization: Will you be volunteering with vulnerable people like children or the elderly? If so, the organization can ask for a background check. You are volunteering in a school to help minor or disabled students? The school must ensure that you have never engaged in conduct that could put the students' physical or psychological safety at risk. You'll be driving? The organization can check your driving record.
- ☐ Training: Will there be an information and orientation session? Will you need training for the work you'll be doing?
- ☐ Accompaniment: Has the organization given you a volunteers' guide or description of your responsibilities? Is someone available to answer your questions?
- ☐ Expenses: Can you get reimbursed for certain expenses (for example, gas if you drive people)?





Your role as a volunteer

- ☐ Schedule: How many hours a week or a month will you be volunteering? What will your schedule be?
- ☐ Responsibilities: What will you be doing? Do you prefer physical work or desk work? Do you prefer working alone or with the public? Do you have the skills to do the tasks involved?
- ☐ Know your limits: Do physical limitations prevent you from doing certain tasks (for example, lifting heavy objects or standing for long periods)?



Accidents

- ☐ Health and safety rules: Do you know about the organization's health and safety rules?
- ☐ CNESST: Has the organization registered its volunteers with the Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CNESST or labour standards, pay equity and workplace health and safety board)? If not, you won't be compensated if you have an accident. Ask the organization about this.



Volunteering on a board of directors

Will you be sitting on a board of directors? You might have more responsibilities than other kinds of volunteers. To learn more, see the [Charities and Non-profits section](#) of Éducaloi's website.

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Made possible with the financial support of



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