

Newsletter

Winter 2020

As we move into a new decade health and wellness is on our minds more than ever, and along with it, a focus on how we fuel our bodies, and the food we eat. Developing healthy habits from a young age is crucial, and we're happy to see Student Nutrition Programs (SNPs) across the city helping students build these healthy habits, every day.

SNP Applications are Due!

The SNP grant renewal application and full applications are available now!

Access the applications here:

<https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/health-wellness-care/health-programs-a-dvice/student-nutrition-program/grant-applications/>

Due: Friday, February 14, 2020 at 4:00pm.



If you have questions or need support, please contact your FoodShare Community Development Coordinator at 416-363-6441 (ext. 265) or e-mail snp@toronto.ca.

SNO-Toronto Questionnaire

Keep an eye out for this year's SNO-Toronto Questionnaire! It will be emailed out to SNP Site Authorities, Financial Reporters and Coordinators in the next couple of months.

The feedback we gain from your responses is so very useful in shaping our plans for the future, and in helping us to support your programs better. It takes only a few minutes to complete, and your participation is greatly appreciated!

Tips on Recruiting Volunteers

Using different methods for reaching potential volunteers in your school community is important, but once you have their attention, making sure your messaging is clear and impactful will increase the likelihood that they will sign up to volunteer. Here are some tips on how to be effective in your volunteer recruiting:

Be Clear

- Determine exactly what you are looking for before you begin to reach out to the community, and be clear about what it is in all your communications.
- In any messaging or calls for volunteers that you post, include the following information:

What are the tasks/duties that volunteers are needed for?

What days are they needed?

What time of day? How many days per week?

Will they need to complete a Vulnerable Sector Police Check (yes)?

What's the duration of time they'll be needed for (i.e. September-December; all year)?

Who should they contact if they're interested? By when?



Connect with School Administration and Staff

- Your school's administration, Office Assistant and staff are great resources in finding volunteers, but they need to know what you need in order to be of help.
- Providing them with a clear outline of what you are looking for will help them help you.

Highlight the Benefits

We know most people, especially parents, are busy on a regular basis, with families, jobs, traffic, etc. If they are going to dedicate some of their precious time to contributing to your SNP, they'll need to know why they're doing it. Here are just a few of the benefits SNPs offer that you may wish to highlight.

Benefits to Students

- Improved health
- Improved academic outcomes
- Improved eating habits
- Improved behaviour
- Builds sense of community

Benefits to Volunteers

- Meeting new people
- Learning new skills and knowledge
- Training opportunities (food safety)
- Contribute to community
- Participate in child's school

Recruit More People Than You Need

- It's better to have leftovers than not enough food. The same can be said of volunteers who may show interest in your program at the start, but may also fall away to other commitments.
- Recruiting Volunteers is an ongoing process and it's always better to have too many volunteers than too few!

Be Patient and Persistent

- Recruiting volunteers is almost always a challenge. Talking to dozens of people may result in only a few recruits. Don't take the frustration personally! Continue to be diligent and creative in your recruitment efforts.

Need more support? Contact your Community Development Coordinator.

Community Development Coordinator's Corner

Welcome back and we hope you enjoyed a very well deserved break over the holidays.

To say the start of this SNP year to date has been busy would be an understatement. The Community Development Coordinator (CDC) team, together with our partners, has supported over 50 new coordinators since the start of the school year.

Community Connect Networking Sessions

We will be offering a series of Community Connect Networking sessions in the Spring. Keep an eye out for the flyer with dates and locations. These sessions provide you with an opportunity to network and share ideas, learn, chat about your SNP and hear about others. Please remember to let your CDC know if you would be interested in hosting a workshop in the future.



SNP Budgets

Now is the perfect time to check in with your SNP budget to ensure you are on track. Please make sure your projected budget is enough for the entire school year and if not, book some time with your CDC who can offer solutions to help augment that budget or make it stretch, allowing for more sustainable programming.

Our team would like to thank you all for the work you have done and will continue to do for your SNPs.

Food Safety Workshops—Spring 2020

The Spring 2020 SNP Food Safety and Nutrition Training Workshop schedule has been posted.

Workshops are being held throughout February and March 2020, at various locations around Toronto.

Remember, at least one person trained in food safety within the past two years must be present at every SNP at all times.

For more information, and to register for a workshop, head on over to the Toronto Public Health website: <https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/health-wellness-care/health-programs-advice/student-nutrition-program/workshops-food-safety/>



Want to learn more?

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