Opportunities for
ESE-related Service Learning
Fall 2014

Please note: this list will be growing over the fall, please check back every few weeks for listings of new service learning opportunities.

Opportunities at OISE

To volunteer for any of the OISE Projects, please contact Hilary Inwood (hilary.inwood@utoronto.ca)

Facilitating the Take the Stairs Campaign
We’re working on reducing elevator use by faculty, staff and students to conserve energy and improve the health of those in the building. Volunteering with this project would involve helping to plan and implement the Take the Stairs campaign. Help organize and run the Take the Stairs Campaign to promote environmental sustainability. The elevators consume the most amount of energy in the building. I will need 3 volunteers to promote energy saving by taking the stairs to students and faculty in the building. Volunteers will monitor groups set clues for contests on environmental sustainability.
Contact Info: arshi.shaikh@mail.utoronto.ca

Organizing OISE Eco-Art Projects
We’re aiming to put artworks on environmental themes in the main OISE stairwell to support the ‘walk the stairs’ campaign, as well as other advocacy campaigns at OISE (eg. FLAP, energy conservation, water conservation, paper reduction, etc). There are two eco--art projects running this year to help plan, promote and implement.

Reduce Paper Use Campaign
We are aiming to reduce the amount of paper used in courses and administration at OISE. Volunteering with this project would involve helping to plan and implement a paper reduction campaign.

Website Content Development
We’re looking for help to gather information to further develop content for the ESE website. This involves finding related readings on a series of themes through a literature search, writing up an introduction and related resources to the page, and then brainstorming possible activity ideas for this area.

Community Learning Garden Development
We’re looking for help to further develop our resources for the OISE Community Learning Garden. Won the connections between sustainability and accessibility for an addition to our website. This involves finding related readings through a literature search, writing up an introduction to sustainability/accessibility connections, and then brainstorming possible projects for OISE in this area for
the future.

**Graphic Design Work**
We need help designing posters and other print materials for our ESE projects; this can be done on-line but design skills are needed.

**Sustainability Project Development**
If you have an idea for a project to encourage sustainability at OISE, we’re interested in hearing it!

**Opportunities in the Schools**

*To volunteer for any of these projects, please contact the person listed directly.*

**William Lyon Mackenzie C.I. - ACL Science Safety/EcoSchools**

**Contact Name:** Nicole Cheung-Seekit  
**Contact info (email and phone):** (416) 395-3330 X20095  
**Location of the Organization/School:** 22 Tillplain Rd. (Dufferin & Sheppard, behind Downsview station)  
**Description of the volunteer opportunity:** Help with brainstorming and implementing greening initiatives and monthly initiatives for our EcoTeam

**Scarborough Outdoor Education School**

**Contact Name:** Simon Francis  
**Contact info (email and phone):** 705-636-5384  
**Location of the Organization/School:** Kearney, ON  
**Description of the volunteer opportunity:** I was thinking about a teacher candidate who is capable of engaging students in the natural world, could meet up with a class that is going on a trip to SOES (for 3, 4 or 5 days). They could be part of the program planning and organize a few outdoor activities with the class, in their city neighbourhood, that are well lined up with the program they will be taking part in up north. Then, upon their return, meet up once again and do a follow up outdoor activity with the class back in the city.

**Kew Beach Junior Public School**

**Contact Name:** Andrea Urekar; Kristin Rogers; Travis White; Sarah Walker-Gaudet  
**Contact info (email and phone):** Andrea.Urekar@tdsb.on.ca/kristin.rogers@tdsb.on.ca  
**Name of the Organization/School: Location of the Organization/School:** 101 Kippendavie Ave (Queen & Woodbine)  
**Description of the volunteer opportunity:** Our Eco team is looking to take our school from Gold certification to platinum. We need innovative ideas for boomerang lunches, staff eco-literacy units, Eco-fairs and other environmentally inspiring ideas.
Montcrest School

**Contact Name:** Mary Gray  
**Contact info (email and phone):** 416-469-2008 mary_gray@montcrest.on.ca  
**Location of the Organization/School:** Broadview and Danforth (East end Toronto)  
**Description of the volunteer opportunity:** Working with Eco Club projects with Primary-Junior-Intermediate students e.g. Community Garden, Eco School's Certification, contribute to research and development of "Eco Leadership/Council" program.

Toronto Urban Studies Centre

**Contact Name:** Paul Hackl  
**Contact info:** Office: 416-393-0851  
**Location of the Organization/School:** 800 Greenwood Ave. M4J 4B7  
**Description of the volunteer opportunity:** I have an excellent opportunity for two of your students looking to get their 20 hours of ESE volunteering in. I am in the middle of developing 4 full days of new curriculum material for the Toronto Urban Studies Centre. I could use help with curriculum design and development, testing of new material and the development of related materials, such as power point type presentations and field note assignment sheets to introduce and support the new material. I am developing assignments for grades 4-8 with GIS software, field investigations into Toronto's architectural history and other similar activities.

Heritage Park PS TDSB

**Contact Name:** Rebecca Chahine  
**Contact info (email and phone):** rebecca.chahine@tdsb.on.ca  
**Location of the Organization/School:** Morningside and Old Finch Ave  
**Description of the volunteer opportunity:** The student can help with building outdoor learning activities for our kindergarten play area. We are in the process of expanding the area and putting in natural play structures. They could help support our Ecoschools by planning environmental lessons for k to grade 8 students that teachers could use in the classroom.

Montrose Junior Public School

**Contact info (email and phone):** Valerie Endicott [valerie.endicott@tdsb.on.ca] / Karen Urban [Karen.urban@tdsb.on.ca]  
**Location of the Organization/School:** 301 Montrose Ave, Toronto  
**Description of the volunteer opportunity:** The teacher candidate could do any or all of the following:

1. Help us with grant applications for environmental initiatives at the school (for example raised beds for our vegetable garden).

2. Connect with local community organizations (in particular "Friends of Bickford Park") to help us develop our relationships in the community (in order to help with planting, clean up and other park initiatives). Also the David Suzuki Foundation (we have one of their blue canoe butterfly gardens)
3. Develop curriculum on a particular theme that the school can use at every grade level that has a social justice element to it (e.g. Water) Make this a school wide initiative.

4. Investigate and proceed if possible on getting city permission to expand our garden area at the front of the school.

St. Joseph (TCDSB)

Contact Name: Rebecca Allgeier
Contact info (email and phone): Rebecca.Allgeier@tcdsb.org
Location of the Organization/School: 176 Leslie St. Toronto On
Description of the volunteer opportunity: We are looking for help with greening applications. Our kindergarten program has started outdoor classroom 1/2 day, but the classroom/playground is a cement rectangle. we are hopping to change that.

Charles G. Fraser P.S.

Contact Name: Jennifer Venalainen
Contact info (email and phone): Jennifer.Venalainen@tdsb.on.ca, 416-393-1830
Location of the Organization/School: 79 Manning Avenue (near Queen and Bathurst)
Description of the volunteer opportunity: We have a vibrant Eco Club with several project ideas that could be a good match for one of your teacher candidates.
SUGGESTIONS:
- Create opportunities to involve Kindergarten students in Environmental Education (Eco Club is Grades 1-6) in a developmentally appropriate way for a largely ELL population
- Promote biking activities and bike safety in the school with outreach to the parent community (we will be receiving a new bike rack this year)
- Researching next steps for our school garden (native plants, feasibility of a food garden, stewardship, funding sources)

Opportunities in Community Organizations

To volunteer for any of these projects, please contact the person listed directly.

TREC Education

Contact Name: Abasi Sanders
Contact info: abasi@trec.on.ca (416) 977-5093
Location of the Organization/School: 401 Richmond Street, Suite 240, Toronto, ON
Description of the volunteer opportunity: TREC Education is a charitable organization that focuses on educating students about renewable energy. We conduct hands-on workshops in grade 5, 6, 7 and 9 classrooms that involve miniature turbines and solar panels. Our workshops align with the Ontario Curriculum of Science and Technology. (Our emphasis is on electricity, energy, renewables and conservation). Currently we are in the process of revamping our workshops. We would like to know
if there are candidate who would be interested in the revamping process? The revamping would involve researching new material, building slideshows, lesson planning and designing a take home activity.

Kortright Centre for Conservation

**Contact Name:** Jaime Sidler  
**Contact info (email and phone):** jsidler@trca.on.ca 905-832-2289 ext 239  
**Location of the Organization/School:** 9550 Pine Valley Dr. Woodbridge, ON  
**Description of the volunteer opportunity:** Multiple environmental education volunteer opportunities available, including special events. Other opportunities arise through out the year.

Hands-on Biodiversity Gallery, Royal Ontario Museum

**Contact Name:** Ann Macpherson  
**Contact info (email and phone):** annm@rom.on.ca 416 586 5800  
**Location of the Organization/School:** 100 Queen's Park, Toronto M5S 2C6  
**Description of the volunteer opportunity:**  
The Hands-on Biodiversity Gallery at the Royal Ontario Museum is an interactive area that uses work stations, activity boxes and real specimens to engage visitors in learning about biodiversity and threats to our natural world. Students will have an opportunity to use their background in environmental education to inspire the next generation to explore the natural world and find out how they may make a difference.  
I have a number of projects students could be involved in depending on your interest and availability. If you are interested and available to come to the site once or twice, you could help us test out new activity boxes focused on our gallery themes. We would be interested in your input. If you have to work offsite, we do need some research on some of our specimens. We could pick one or two and student's could find out; conservation status, basic information about the animal or plant, ecology, and facilitation ideas for the floor. Also, student's could visit and find out more about Discovery Learning, which we follow as our experiential education technique.

Forests Ontario

**Contact Name:** Jessica Kaknevicius  
**Contact info :** jkaknevicius@forestsontario.ca 416-493-4565  
**Location of the Organization/School:** 144 Front Street West, Toronto (Front and University)  
**Description of the volunteer opportunity:** Lesson plan writing and activity development for Focus on Forests resources; curriculum connections and documenting

Earth Rangers

**Contact Name:** Dr. Scott Tarof  
**Contact info (email and phone):** starof@earthrangers.com (905) 417-3447 x2230  
**Location of the Organization/School:** 9520 Pine Valley Dr., Woodbridge, ON, L4L 1A6  
**Description of the volunteer opportunity:** One of Earth Rangers’ applied conservation projects is a long-term habitat restoration project called Project iRestore, which began in 2011. Project iRestore involves rehabilitation of three major native habitat types: tallgrass prairie, wetlands and mixed deciduous forest. This volunteer opportunity would include 20 hours of off-site work involving
biomonitoring data entry (e.g., vegetation sampling) and simple preliminary data analysis in Excel (e.g., calculating biodiversity indices in Excel). Data sheet scans and the data file would be provided via email to facilitate the student being able to work from home, but one or two brief in-person meetings would be needed with Dr. Tarof to ensure data entry is being done accurately. The 2 positions promises to be a good fit for a science education minded students who enjoy meticulous work requiring close attention to detail. Project iRestore is part of Earth Rangers’ extensive education program portfolio of educating over one million children and their families across Canada about animal biodiversity conservation and environmental stewardship.

**PACT Grow To Learn**

- **Contact Name:** Natalie Boustead
- **Contact info (email and phone):** pactgrow2learn@gmail.com, 416-709-0903
- **Name of the Organization/School:** PACT Grow to Learn Schoolyard Gardening Program
- **Location of the Organization/School:** PACT GTL has 5 schoolyard gardens, located in Rexdale, Etobicoke, and Lawrence Heights. Depending on the number of interested participants, they may request a site closest to them, but may be asked to visit various sites throughout their time with us.
- **Description of the volunteer opportunity:**
  PACT Grow to Learn is a schoolyard gardening organization, located in Priority Neighbourhoods across Toronto. Teacher Candidates interning/volunteering with us will have a chance to engage with hands on, in gardening teaching opportunities with students of various age ranges, but mostly focused on high school students. We are currently rolling out new curriculum linked workshops to offer to our adjoining schools, and teacher candidates are welcome to help in implementing them. Teacher candidates will also get to learn valuable gardening and farming skills while working in the gardens. We welcome any teacher candidates who would be interested in continuing to create and implement curriculum-linked nature based workshops and lessons as a part of completing their hours.

**Ecosource**

- **Contact Name:** Sierra Frank
- **Contact info (email and phone):** sfrank@ecosource.ca
- **Name of the Organization/School:** Ecosource
- **Location of the Organization/School:** Mississauga
- **Description of the volunteer opportunity:** Ecosource is looking for teacher candidates to contribute to our in-school waste education programs. Depending on availability and interest, we have various volunteer opportunities to select form. These include supporting our in-school environmental campaign programs (availability during school hours necessary) and helping to write curriculum-linked lessons (with a secondary focus). We also have other opportunities including supporting our Peel Environmental Youth Alliance program and community garden and urban agriculture events. For more information on Ecosource: [www.ecosource.ca](http://www.ecosource.ca)

**STEPS Initiative**

- **Contact Name:** Anjuli Solanki
- **Contact info (email and phone):** [anjuli@stepsinitiative.com](mailto:anjuli@stepsinitiative.com)
- **Name of the Organization/School:** the STEPS Initiative
Location of the Organization/School: 720 Bathurst Street, Toronto, ON, M6J 2V7
Description of the volunteer opportunity:
The STEPS Initiative is a community-based organization that bridges the gap between the cultural, social and environmental sectors by using art to build the capacity of citizens to take action in creating more vibrant and connected communities. We collaborate with educators to deliver innovative programming, in both school and community settings; providing young people with a platform to think critically about the city and their role in making it a more vibrant place to live. Working alongside, celebrated interdisciplinary artists, participants tackle questions like: What is public space, and why is it necessary? What makes a public space great? How can public spaces contribute to community life? What role can I play in creating a vibrant community?

For this service learning opportunity, you observe / co-facilitate (as appropriate) youth programming, alongside the Program Manager, as well as support program outreach activities. You will propose new program modules, with the freedom to develop workshop plans that draw on topics related to the overall program objectives, but that utilize creative media that the student(s) are interested in. These workshop plans will be reviewed by the Program Manager for consideration within our ongoing program offerings. Approx. 20 - 40 total service hours.

The Stop Community Food Centre

Contact Name: Xuan-Yen Cao and Kanaka Kulendran
Contact info (email and phone): youtheducation@thestop.org
Name of the Organization/School: The Stop Community Food Centre
Location of the Organization/School: 601 Christie Street, Barn 4, Toronto, Ontario. M6G 4C7
Description of the volunteer opportunity:
We are looking for a teacher candidate to help with research as to further inform and develop our educational programming and pedagogical practices around food systems and food justice in our community. We have three areas of interest—it would be great if a student help research ONE of the topics below.

Research topics for ESE students to support or lead:
1. Research Anti Oppressive Practice and Anti-Racist Practice in informal and formal education pedagogy outside of Canada (theories, practices and case studies)
2. Research and Collate LOI, model school and priority school data in TDSB and TCDSB (statistics relating to food issues, access and i.e. poverty stats and other measures)
3. Community Asset Map of After-School Programs (children and youth) in the Davenport West and St. Clair West neighbourhoods (story-based report that will include organizations’ mandate, AOP anti-discrimination practices and policies, who they serve and program offerings, costs, and funding info)

EcoSpark

Contact Name: Kendal Gerard
Contact info (email and phone): kendal@ecospark.ca, 647.258.3280 x2003
Name of the Organization/School: EcoSpark
Location of the Organization/School: 1179 King St W, Suite 114
Description of the volunteer opportunity: Over the course of the 2014-15 school year, EcoSpark will launch The Nature Academy, a professional development (PD) program that helps secondary school teachers integrate outdoor and experiential education into their everyday science and geography curriculum. EcoSpark is seeking a student who is working towards their Intermediate/Senior
qualification to help develop activities and lessons to be used in future Nature Academy workshops. Learn more about EcoSpark and our educational programs at [ecospark.ca](http://ecospark.ca).

**Lake Ontario Waterkeeper/ The National Water Centre**

**Contact Name:** Gabrielle Parent-Doliner  
**Contact info (email and phone):** gabrielle@theswimguide.org or (416) 861-1237  
**Name of the Organization/School:** Lake Ontario Waterkeeper/ The National WaterCentre  
**Location of the Organization/School:** Toronto, Ontario (project work may be done remotely)  

**Description of the volunteer opportunity:**  
The purpose of the volunteer opportunity is to help Waterkeeper develop a lesson plan/mini-curriculum for educators contributing to our newest initiative, The Watermark Project.  

**Main goals**  
- To help Lake Ontario Waterkeeper launch the Watermark Project.  
- To create instructions for educators interested in incorporating the Watermark Project into a lesson plan in environmental and sustainability studies.  

**Overview: Create instructions for a Watermark Project lesson plan**  
The OISE Service-Learning volunteer will create a lesson plan for educators wishing to introduce the Watermark Project to their students. Educators will use the lesson plan to help students acknowledge and articulate their personal connection to water (their “Watermarks”) and to use the opportunity to achieve other geography, science, or culture studies objectives.  
Waterkeeper is developing the Watermark toolkit and a methodology for eliciting and capturing individual stories. We need assistance from someone in the field of education who can help adapt this toolkit for educators working with groups of young people (i.e., teenagers).  

**The P.i.n.e. Project**

**Contact Name:** Andrew McMartin, Executive Director  
**Contact info (email and phone):** andrew@pineproject.org and 647 991 7463  
**Name of the Organization/School:** The p.i.n.e. project  
**Location of the Organization/School:** Office - 12 St Annes Rd, Toronto, ON M6J 2C1. Program location - Humber Valley (Old Mill), Taylor Creek Park, and Earl Bales Park  

**Description of the volunteer opportunity:** Program volunteers - learn about nature based mentoring, wilderness survival skills, and naturalist knowledge by helping out with the p.i.n.e. project community school, weekly and monthly programs that connect children, families and nature in the city.