



Volunteer: Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is the first step to volunteering with Interchange?** The first step is making contact with us, having a quick chat about what type of volunteering you are interested in and then receiving an information package. Once you've received this, take a look at it and make sure you feel Interchange is the right fit for you. Then give us a call and we will book you into an information evening where you will receive more detailed information on our programs and what's required of our volunteers.
- **Ok, I definitely want to volunteer with Interchange, now what?** After you attend the information evening, you will need to fill out an application form and return it to the office. From this point, we will walk you through the rest of the paperwork and processes to becoming a full-fledged Interchange volunteer.

- **How much time do I need to commit to my volunteering role?**
This depends entirely on you and how much time you have to give. You may elect to volunteer at camps a couple times a year or you may be able to host a child for one weekend a month. Our staff will discuss options with you and choose a volunteering option to suit your lifestyle.
- **Do I need any experience?** No. Most of our volunteers have no experience in the field of disability. Our volunteers are not required to do any type of manual handling (lifting, etc.) or personal care unless it has been discussed previously. We provide all training for our volunteers.
- **Do I need a police clearance?** Yes. You will need DCSI Disability Services and Child Related clearances which we provide for you.
- **Do I need a first aid certificate?** Yes. We help you book into a first aid course if you haven't done one already and we will pay for it.
- **Do you offer ongoing training?** Yes we do. We have a fully staffed office who can answer your questions Monday through Friday (and some weekends). We also support our volunteers to further their knowledge and access workshops or training courses which are usually listed on our events/calendar page of

the website. If you have something specific in mind, just talk to one of our staff.

- **How long does this process take?** It depends. It depends on how quickly or slowly you can return all relevant paperwork and make times to come to the office for your appointments. It also depends on how quickly DCSI clearances come back if you don't already have them.
- **Do you take student placements?** Yes we do. Please contact the office if you are interested.