

Become a CNE ambassador at Canada's favourite fair

The Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) is looking for enthusiastic volunteers who are interested in a rewarding experience, meeting people from around the world and serving as CNE ambassadors for the 2016 season.

Now in its 16th consecutive year, Friends of the CNE is a community initiative that has engaged more than 2,000 youth and adults, who have contributed nearly 63,000 hours of service. CNE volunteers assist with various roles and duties, including greeting guests, providing directional assistance, acting as tour guides and supporting special events and programming such as the daily Mardi Gras Parade.

Volunteers are at the heart of the Fair, and play an integral role in making the CNE a positive experience for all our guests," CNE General Manager Virginia Ludy said. "The Friends of the CNE program is a great opportunity for youth, and those who are young at heart, to apply their skills and gain valuable experience in a unique and exciting environment; and for others, it's the fulfillment of community involvement and personal enrichment."

Friends of the CNE enlists more than 100 volunteers each year. Volunteers work an average of nine days and 43 hours during the 18-day Exhibition. More than 80 per cent of CNE volunteers are between the ages of 14 and 17. Ontario secondary school students can earn credits toward community service hours.

Volunteers must be at least 14 years old and must be able to commit to a minimum of six shifts, at four hours each. Applications are open to all, but the CNE will give preference to those volunteers who can work evening shifts, between 5 and 8 p.m.

All successful candidates will attend an orientation and training session, receive a Friends of the CNE shirt, are invited to a thank-you barbecue, and receive an I.D. badge that grants free admission to the Ex.

For more information on the Friends of the CNE program or to download an application, visit www.TheEx.com.

Deadline to apply is July 15.