

Volunteer recruitment now open for Pan Am/Parapan Am Games

Caledon residents who are eager to play a role in the upcoming Pan Am Games now have their chance.

The official online volunteer portal for the Toronto 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games is now live at www.TORONTO2015.org/volunteer.

Presented by Chevrolet, the volunteer recruitment drive is searching for more than 20,000 amazing, passionate and skilled people, aged 16 and up, to make these Games truly great ? including right here in Caledon, which will host Equestrian Dressage and Show Jumping in the summer of 2015 at the Caledon Equestrian Park.

?The residents of Caledon are known for their big hearts and spirit of volunteerism. Volunteers are what make us great,? said Mayor Marolyn Morrison. ?With the 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games, we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to showcase the Town of Caledon like never before. I encourage everyone to get involved and help show the world everything Caledon has to offer.?

Exciting volunteer positions are available in 16 Ontario municipalities ? from Welland to Minden Hills, Hamilton to Oshawa ? in all areas of the Games, from anti-doping and medical services, protocol and the Games-time news service, to ticketing, venue management and ushers in venues. The Pan Am Games will take place July 10 to 26, 2015, while the Parapan Am Games will take place Aug. 7 to 15, 2015.

?Behind every amazing moment at the Toronto 2015 Games will be our volunteers,? said Saäd Rafi, chief executive officer of the Toronto 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games Organizing Committee (TO2015). ?They will be the backbone, the ambassadors and the heart of the Games ? they will represent the best of us.?

The online volunteer application takes about 20 minutes to fill out and captures information about skills and experience, preferences and availability. Selected candidates will be asked to undergo interviews, starting in June 2014. Positions will be offered beginning September 2014 and continuing up to Games time.

?Through the volunteer program, individuals and communities across this country will be united by the shared goal of delivering Games that will make Canadians proud,? said Bal Gosal, Minister of State (Sport). ?That is just one of the many reasons our Government is pleased to support the Toronto 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games.?

In addition to an unforgettable experience, all volunteers will receive a keepsake uniform and training, as well as earn a volunteer certificate from the Province of Ontario, recognizing their Games training to help them stand out in today's job market.

?The government of Ontario is proud to provide education, experience and expertise for our 20,000 volunteers who will help host the largest international multi-sport Games held on Canadian soil,? said Michael Chan, minister responsible for the Games. ?The first of its kind in the province, the new volunteer certificate program and online gateway will foster a vibrant volunteer base that will help strengthen skill sets and leave a lasting legacy of volunteerism in Ontario long after the Games.?

For more information on volunteering for the Games, visit www.caledon.ca/panam or go directly to www.TORONTO2015.org/volunteer