



CCSS Volunteer Recognition Program

Connections Community Services Society (CCSS) values the dedication, leadership and the positive impact created by our volunteers. The CCSS Recognition Program celebrates volunteers who demonstrate exceptional commitment, service excellence and community spirit. All awards are granted through **nomination** based on **service records, program involvement and level of commitment**. Awards are presented at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Event in recognition of the contributions in the previous calendar year. All active CCSS volunteers are eligible.

Connections Youth of the Year Scholarship

This scholarship recognizes an outstanding youth volunteer who exemplifies long-term commitment, leadership, academic excellence and who has made a lasting community impact across multiple CCSS programs as an all-round role model.

Level of Commitment	Criteria
Age Eligibility	Youth aged between 15 – 25 with a current student status.
Highest Commitment	Minimum three years of volunteer services with CCSS.
Leadership Impact	Held leadership roles and influenced peers positively.
Breadth of Service	Active participation in at least three CCSS programs.
Service Hours	Completed at least 60 volunteer hours.
Community Engagement	Demonstrated initiative and engagement beyond assigned duties.
Academic Excellence	Maintained an average of 80% grade

Connections Youth L.E.A.D. Scholarship

This scholarship honors youth volunteers who demonstrate Leadership, Engagement, Action, Dedication and who show strong potential as future community leaders.

Level of Commitment	Criteria
Age Eligibility	Youth aged between 15 – 25 with a current student status.
Sustained Commitment	Minimum three years of volunteer services with CCSS.



Leadership Role	Demonstrated leadership through coordinating events, mentoring or being a role model for others.
Service Hours	Completed at least 40 volunteer hours.
Academic Excellence	Maintained an average of 80% grade.

Connections Most Valuable Player (MVP)

This award recognizes a volunteer whose contributions and impact have been exceptional and transformative to the advancement of CCSS.

Level of Commitment	Criteria
Exceptional Impact	Demonstrated the most significant overall contribution to CCSS programs and operations.
High Commitment	Completed at least 100 volunteer hours.
Peer & Staff Recognition	Selected through staff voting based on observed impact.

Connections Service Milestone Recognition

This tiered recognition honors cumulative volunteer service hours in one year. Hours are reset for each calendar year.

Recognition Tiers	Criteria
Friends of Connections Membership Card*	Completed 30 volunteer hours.
Service Champion Name Badge	Completed 60 volunteer hours / By Nomination.
Service Milestone Award (100+/200+/300+ Hours)	Completed 100/200/300 volunteer hours.

**Friends of Connections Membership Program will be launched in April 2026. It offers discounts from restaurants and merchants who are in partnership with CCSS.*



Connections Leadership and Service Award

This award recognizes volunteers who demonstrate outstanding leadership while actively contributing to CCSS programs and initiatives. This award honors individuals who guide, mentor and inspire others through their service, helping programs grow and volunteers succeed.

Level of Commitment	Criteria
Leadership Role	Held leadership roles in multiple programs; served as a group facilitator or a mentor to volunteers.
Sustained Commitment	Minimum two years of volunteer services with CCSS.
Breadth of Service	Active participation in at least two CCSS programs.
Service Hours	Completed at least 60 volunteer hours.
Community Engagement	Demonstrated initiative and engagement beyond assigned duties.

Connections Community Service Award

This award recognizes volunteers who extend their service beyond proximity, supporting community members across the mile through outreach, remote services or cross-community initiatives.

Level of Commitment	Criteria
Sustained Commitment	Demonstrated commitment to helping others across distance, culture or circumstance.
Breadth of Service	Provided service that reached beyond their immediate program, location or community.
Community Engagement	Strengthened community bonds through outreach, remote support or collaborative efforts.
Service Hours	Completed at least 30 volunteer hours.



Connections Master of Healthy Living Award

This award honors senior volunteers who demonstrate leadership and commitment in promoting healthy living and community wellness.

Level of Commitment	Criteria
Age Eligibility	Senior volunteers aged 65 or above.
Leadership & Longevity	Demonstrated leadership and sustained involvement.
Program Impact	Contributed to healthy living and wellness initiatives.

Connections Rising Star Award

This award encourages and recognizes young volunteers who show early enthusiasm, commitment and potential to be future youth leaders.

Level of Commitment	Criteria
Age Eligibility	Volunteer aged 15 or below.
Early Engagement	Participated in at least two CCSS programs.
Service Contribution	Completed at least 20 volunteer hours or nominated by program leaders.

Connections Graduate Award

This award recognizes Grade 12 high school volunteers who have balanced academic responsibilities with meaningful community services.

Level of Commitment	Criteria
High School Status	Current Grade 12 students
Program Involvement	Participated in at least two CCSS programs
Service Contribution	Completed at least 30 volunteer hours or nominated by program leaders



Certificates & Reference Letters

Program-specific certificates are awarded to volunteers throughout the year in recognition of their time and commitments to the programs. Reference letters can be provided upon request for volunteers who complete at least 30 hours of service.

Certificates and Letters	Criteria
Certification of Appreciation (Program specific)	Upon program completion with total hours contributed to the respective program.
Certification of Appreciation (General)	Upon request for a specific purpose for your overall CCSS contributions.
Letter of Verification	Upon request to verify CCSS volunteer engagement, indicating the total number of hours during a period of time.
Reference Letter (Upon request)	Completed at least 30 volunteer hours.

Volunteer Hours Tracking

All volunteers must log their volunteer hours to be eligible for awards and recognition. Hours should be submitted regularly and accurately through the official CCSS Volunteer Hours Tracking platform at hours.ccssociety.ca. Hours are reset for each calendar year.

Contact Us

For more information or enquiries about CCSS Volunteer Recognition Program, please contact Volunteer Leadership & Management team at volunteer@ccssociety.ca