



Idanr • Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region

B.E.S.T. Program Volunteer Position Description (Better Emotional and Social Times) **Spring 2018**

- Purpose:** The position of *BEST program volunteer* supports the Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region's self-advocacy and social skills program for children (ages 6-11) with learning difficulties. The BEST self-advocacy and social skills program is designed to help children understand their learning disability and how it simply means they learn differently and learn about their strengths. This program motivates and helps children learn how to advocate for themselves at school and with their friends and family as well as have fun learning new skills such as turn taking, listening, asking for help, dealing with frustration/anxiety and much more.
- Job Title:** BEST program volunteer
- Location:** The BEST Program is conducted in local school classrooms in St. Catharines.
- Key Responsibilities:** The *BEST program volunteer*:
- Works with and supports the BEST program facilitator to deliver the assigned lesson plans as well as the active and cooperative games/sports to further foster social skills;
 - Works with a small group of children who experience difficulties with social skills (such as: conversation skills, friendship skills, organization skills, time management, self-evaluation, feelings, anger management, problem solving, peer pressure, bullying and more) by leading and guiding various activities such as role-playing and so forth.
 - Helps the children learn about their learning disability as well as their strengths and how to self-advocate for themselves;
 - Provides one-to-one support to the children when needed;
 - Provides a positive environment for students to encourage full participation in activities;
 - Models positive behaviours and coaches children to develop and exhibit proper actions and reactions in social settings;
 - Provides regular positive feedback to increase self-confidence and self-esteem;
 - Supports the program facilitator in the set-up and clean-up for each session.
 - Takes and supervises the group on a social outing.
- Reports to:** Program Coordinator and program facilitator
- Length of Appointment:** The BEST program volunteer will serve for 8-weeks for the Spring 2018 session. The volunteer is eligible to continue in future sessions with approval from the Program Coordinator.

Time Commitment: The BEST program volunteer position requires a minimum commitment of one hour and a half per week, for each week that the program is in session. In addition, each volunteer must attend orientation/training during the week prior to program beginning. The program is for **8 weeks:**

St. Catharines

May 2 – June 21 (Wednesdays)

6:00pm – 7:30pm

Qualifications: Eligible candidates for the BEST program volunteer position include individuals over 17 years of age who have earned their secondary diploma and/or in post-secondary school and **passed a vulnerable sectors record check.**

First aid/CPR is an asset.

Experience with individuals with learning disabilities is an asset.

Skills: Eligible candidates should demonstrate:

- Proficiency in English
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Able to work independently and as part of a team
- Must be reliable, creative, organized, and self-motivated
- Able to meet deadlines within a specified timeframe
- Must be patient.

Support Provided: Mandatory training for this position will be taking place from 6:00 – 7:30pm at the LDANR office. In addition, the BEST program facilitator will be on the premises at all times to assist you as needed. Additionally, the Program Coordinator is available on an ongoing basis to answer questions and provide other assistance as needed.

Please complete a Volunteer Intake Form as soon as possible!

<http://ldaniagara.org/get-involved/volunteer-intake-form/>

Inquiries regarding this position can be directed to:

Brittani Ali, Program Coordinator

Email: programsLdan@cogeco.net

Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region is committed to our Accessibility and Accommodation policy. We welcome and encourage applications from individuals with disabilities. Candidates taking part in all aspects of the recruitment and selection process are encouraged to communicate needs for accommodation and we will partner with you to meet those needs.