



Idanr • Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region

Better Emotional and Social Times (B.E.S.T.) Program Volunteer Description Spring 2024

Position:	Program Volunteer
Reports to:	Program Facilitators and Program Coordinator
Location	St. Catharines/Thorold (exact location TBD)***
Volunteer Schedule	May 15 th June 19 th , 2024 Wednesdays** from 6:00 – 7:00 pm The volunteer will commit to 6 weeks for the Spring 2024 program. The volunteer is eligible to continue for subsequent sessions with approval from the Program Coordinator.
Mandatory Training Information***	
Location	St. Catharines/Thorold (exact location TBD)***
Date	Wednesday, May 1 st , 2024
Time	6:00 – 8:00 pm

* The location is tentative and subject to change. Any location changes will be communicated in advance.

** Program volunteers must be available every Wednesday at the specified times.

*** Program training is required for new and returning program staff and volunteers.

Position Summary

For a full description of the LDANR's B.E.S.T. Program, please visit our website [here](https://www.LDANiagara.org) or email us at info@ldaniagara.org.

B.E.S.T. Social Skills and Self-Advocacy program volunteers support the Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region (LDANR)'s self-advocacy and coping skills program for children with learning difficulties. The B.E.S.T. self-advocacy and coping skills program is designed to help children understand their learning differences as well as ways to successfully cope with the secondary characteristics associated with learning differently. The B.E.S.T. program assists children in learning how to advocate for themselves at school and with

their friends and family. During the B.E.S.T. program, children also spend time learning new coping skills such as asking for help, dealing with frustration/anxiety, stress reduction, and much more. B.E.S.T. is designed to help program volunteers and instructors gain knowledge in working with children who experience self-advocacy and social skills challenges as a result of a suspected Learning Disability.

Responsibilities:

The *BEST* program volunteer:

- Works with and supports the BEST Program Facilitators 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 coping 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 behaviour 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.

Program Requirements:

- Attend all program sessions
- Attend mandatory training sessions
- Must track progress and set goals with the program participants

Qualifications and Skills Required:

Eligible candidates for the B.E.S.T. Program-Volunteer position include individuals who are 16 years of age or older prior to starting the volunteer position.

Additional requirements and assets include:

- **Police Vulnerable Sectors Clearance** valid within the past year (***required if 18+**);
- Completion of the **Accessibility of Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) Training Module** – (*required upon commencement of volunteer position);
- Completion of the **Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) Training Module** – (*required upon commencement of volunteer position);
- Previous experience working with individuals with learning disabilities and/or children (asset);
- Standard First Aid and CPR-C (asset);

Volunteers should demonstrate:

- Excellent verbal and written communication skills;
- The ability to work independently and as part of a team;
- Organizational skills, responsibility, patience and reliability;
- The ability to meet deadlines within a specified timeframe.

Benefits:

Volunteers will develop skills such as:

- Understanding the functions and roles of LDANR;
- Identifying and utilizing community resources;
- Gaining understanding of the issues and needs of the client;
- And Increased knowledge of Learning Disabilities and AD(H)D.

Support Provided:

Training for this position will be provided prior to programs commencing. In addition, the Program Coordinator is available on an ongoing basis to answer questions and provide assistance as needed. The Program Instructors and volunteers will have full access to our resource library/center for resources, tools, games, etc. that would be useful for B.E.S.T. program sessions.

Application Procedure:

Please complete a [Volunteer Intake Form Here](#)

Any inquiries regarding this opportunity can be sent to **Taylor Lloyd, Program Coordinator** at tlloyd@Ldaniagara.org.

We thank all who apply; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. No phone calls please. For more information about LDANR, please refer to our website www.LDANiagara.org.

The 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.