



WESTMOUNT

CHARTER SCHOOL

Volunteer Handbook

2015-2016

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Welcome Westmount Volunteers

Your contribution to our school is greatly valued and appreciated. We hope that you find your volunteer experience at Westmount Charter School both enjoyable and rewarding. Thank you for your support.

Who can be a School Volunteer and how are Volunteers Screened?

At WCS a volunteer is defined as a person who assists our school and/ or students in either curricular or extra-curricular activities. All volunteer positions must have a specified purpose and must be sponsored by the teacher, school Principal, or executive School Council.

As a WCS volunteer, you are placed in a position of trust with students, staff and property of WCS. Therefore **dependent on the type of volunteer activity you are participating in**, reasonable background checks must be completed prior to utilizing your services. The background check you may be required to complete is called a PIC (Police Information Check). **A PIC is valid for 3 years; there are no exceptions.**

Note that guest speakers or presenters, visitors to the school, and parents assisting only their own child in the school are not considered to be volunteers, and therefore do not require a security clearance.

In addition to the requirement for a Police Information Check, the school Principal may also choose to interview you and/ or check references.

Volunteer Categories Determine Whether a PIC is Required

At WCS we have **two categories** of volunteer activities:

- Category A and
- Category B.

Volunteers performing activities which fall under Category A, must complete a PIC. Category B Volunteers are not required to complete a PIC.

Click [here](#) for a description of Volunteer Categories, or see [Appendix A – Volunteer Categories](#) in this document. If you are unsure whether your volunteer activity falls under Category A or B, please [contact](#) the Elementary or Mid-High Office.

Overview of Police Information Check (PIC) Process

Category “A” volunteers are responsible for providing WCS with a current Police Information Check (PIC) or certified criminal record check from the RCMP before they can volunteer at Westmount.

- You must request a Volunteer/PIC letter from School office staff at the Elementary or Mid-High office.
- Take the volunteer/PIC letter to take to one of the appropriate Calgary Police Service district offices and complete their **Consent to Search and Disclosure of Personal Information form**. They will require two pieces of identification (one must be photo ID) or
- **You can apply online**, using the Calgary Police Service ePIC system. Instructions can be found on the [Westmount Volunteering page](#) or at <https://policeinformationcheck.calgarypolice.ca/>.
- Your PIC will expire in 3 years and you will be responsible for reapplying for a new PIC before it expires. (You may reapply within 3 months of expiration.) If this is not done, you will have to wait for the new PIC to arrive before you can resume volunteering.

All information regarding security clearances is strictly confidential and may not be used or disclosed in accordance with this regulation and the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Steps to become a Volunteer at Westmount

To be a volunteer at WCS you must follow the following steps. You may also review the Westmount Parent Volunteering page for a full description of the Volunteer Process.

1. Read [WCS Administrative Policy \(A.P.\) 555 – Volunteers](#).
2. Determine whether you are a Category “A” or Category “B” volunteer.
 - a. **If you are Category “A” Volunteer** – complete the PIC (Police Information Check Process). Information on how to complete the PIC can be found:
 - i. [On the Westmount Volunteer Web page](#)
 - ii. [On the printable Visual Volunteer Process PDF](#)
 - b. Complete the Westmount Charter School [Volunteer Registration Form](#) and return it to the Elementary or Mid-High Office
3. **If you are a Category “B” Volunteer** – Complete the Westmount Charter School [Volunteer Registration Form](#) and return it to the Elementary or Mid-High Office (select the location where you will be doing most of your volunteering). The Volunteer Registration form can also be found in Appendix

[About the Volunteer Registration Form](#)

- The completion of a Westmount Charter School (WCS) Volunteer Registration Form is required when you begin volunteering **and every three years thereafter**. By completing the form you agree to abide by the conditions that protect the safety, confidentiality and working environment of the school. You also make a signed declaration with regard to criminal charges.

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

Every year, WCS Insurance and Risk Management require the following in order to assess the qualifications of drivers:

- Current and valid driver's license
- Current registration
- Proof of a minimum \$2,000,000 public liability and property damage insurance coverage.

All volunteer drivers are to advise administrators in writing immediately if there is a change to the above.

The vehicle must be in safe driving condition with working seatbelts and proper tires for the road conditions.

These are required by WCS Insurance and Risk Management in order to assess the qualifications of drivers.

EXPECTATIONS OF VOLUNTEERS

All volunteers are responsible to act in the best interests of students, parents, visitors, fellow volunteers and employees of the WCS. This includes treating all students, parents, visitors, fellow volunteers and employees of WCS with dignity and respect.

Volunteers will behave in a manner that respects the dignity and rights of all persons without prejudice as to race, religious beliefs, colour, gender, sexual orientation, physical characteristics, disability, age, ancestry or place of origin.

Administrators and the Charter Board have the right to request a volunteer cease their activities and dismiss where appropriate.

If a volunteer has a concern, it should first be brought to the attention of an administrator and if

unresolved, subsequently to the Superintendent and ultimately to the Charter Board. If a conflict of interest exists between two members at the administrator and direct supervisory level, concerns arising under this policy are addressed at the next level beyond the supervisor.

WCS volunteers are required to:

- Receive direction from and be accountable to the teacher in charge
- Maintain confidentiality in all matters relating to their role
- Be a positive role model for students
- Report poor student behavior to the teacher in charge
- Have appropriate qualifications for the activity
- Dress appropriately for their duties and present a positive image to the school community
- Refrain from smoking while on school property or on a field trip
- Refrain from bringing children with them who are not students of that class
- Comply with all applicable WCS policies, regulations and school rules as outlined in WCS
- Administrative Procedure AP555.

VOLUNTEER CODE OF ETHICS

The following code of ethics shall apply to all volunteers at Westmount Charter School:

1. The volunteer must respect confidentiality. It is essential that volunteers never publicly discuss students, parents, or school staff. If there is a concern, the volunteer should contact the teacher first and then, if necessary, the Principal of the school.
For example, should a volunteer have access to information about a given child. (i.e. the child has serious difficulty reading compared to his or her classmates) this information should not be shared, even with the parents of the child. It is the duty of the teacher to report academic progress to parents.
2. The volunteer should respect the professional role, responsibilities and judgment of the teachers. All volunteers are to receive direction from and be accountable to the teacher in charge and / or the Principal of the school.
3. Any discipline problems should be referred to the teacher in charge.
4. Volunteers should ask the teacher and become familiar with the rules and routines of the school such as:
 - The fire drill / lockdown procedures
 - Library policy and procedures
 - Classroom routines and expectations
5. Volunteers should dress appropriately for their duties and present a positive image to the community at large.
6. Parents are expected not to use their volunteer time as an opportunity to discuss their own child's progress.

7. Once you have committed to volunteer time please make every effort to honour that commitment. Please inform the teacher if you are not able to come to the school as planned.

The last minute cancellation of a volunteer commitment may result in the activity/ field trip being cancelled.

Important Processes to Note

Emergency / Lockdown Procedure: Each location has a plan to deal with emergency situations. In the event of an emergency, the teacher in charge and/ or school administration will provide further direction. You are expected to participate in fire drills, lockdown drills or other safety related training conducted during the school day.

Field Trips: Teachers will ensure that at least one volunteer is familiar with the particulars of the field trip in the event that the teacher becomes incapacitated.

Parking: Please park in designated visitor parking. If there are any questions please contact the office staff at the respective campus.

School Council / School Events: When handling money, volunteers are expected to follow procedures outlined by the supervisor in charge.

Sign In / Out: When arriving please report to the main office and sign the volunteer sign-in/out book. A volunteer identification card will be provided to you and we ask that you wear this at all time; this helps us to ensure that all adults in the building are here on official school business.

When you are finished volunteering, please sign out and return the volunteer identification card.

Valuables: For the safety and security of personal belongings, please avoid bringing valuables into the school unless absolutely necessary. WCS is not responsible for lost or stolen personal property.

Washroom: Please use only the washrooms designated for adults or staff.

Appendix A – Westmount Volunteer Categories

NOTE: The category lists are not exhaustive and represent examples only. If you are unsure about which category your volunteer activity falls within, please contact the main office at the Elementary or Mid-High Campuses.

Category “A” Volunteer Activities PIC is required	Category “B” Volunteer Activities PIC is not required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chaperones for field trips (local, provincial, national or international) • Classroom assistance under the direction and supervision of a teacher • Unsupervised work with students • Driving students to school-related events • Assist with assemblies or drama productions, working directly with students • Learning Commons (library) - work with students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bulletin board development and maintenance/Landscape maintenance • Science Fairs/Bottle drives/ Stampeder games parking/ Silent auctions • Building/take down of sets for drama productions without students • Grant writing • Parent information meetings or workshop set-up • Staff appreciation year-end luncheon • Organizing parents for special projects

Appendix B – Volunteer Driver Application and Declaration

VOLUNTEER DRIVER APPLICATION AND DECLARATION 2015/2016

I wish to be designated as a volunteer driver for Westmount Charter School. As a designated driver, I know and understand that my own insurance is the primary insurance and that liability protection for volunteers drivers, beyond that provided by my insurance company, is provided by Westmount Charter Board while I am transporting students on a school sponsored activity or function in my own vehicle. In addition I meet the following conditions and terms of the Charter Board's policy to qualify as a designated driver.

- I am at least 21 years of age.
- I hold a valid Alberta Driver's License and have a safe driving record with less than six demerit points.
- I carry a minimum of \$2,000,000 public liability and property damage coverage.
- I have informed my insurance company of my intention to act as a volunteer driver.
- The vehicles I intend to use are well maintained and, to the best of my knowledge, are in safe driving condition.
- The vehicles I intend to use all have proper tires for the road conditions.
- The vehicles I intend to use each have a valid Alberta registration.
- The vehicles I intend to use each have seatbelts for every passenger.

By submitting this application to become a volunteer driver for Westmount Charter School, I

furthermore agree:

- To abide by the requirements of all applicable laws at all times while I am engaged as a designated driver.
- To comply with the plan for the field trip or other activity and the instructions of the teacher-leader during the trip.
- To immediately advise the Principal of all traffic violations which will increase the amount of demerit points against my license at the time the charge is issued. I will also report any suspension of my license or change in my insurance status which may occur after the date of this application.

If my vehicle is equipped with front passenger–side airbags, then no student below the minimum height and/ or weight requirement for safety shall be transported in that seat, unless the airbag has been properly deactivated.

To avoid the use of cell phone or any other devices which would distract the driver while operating the vehicle and will only use them while parked in a safe location.

Driver's Name (in full): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (home) _____ (cell) _____

Driver's License No: _____ Class: _____ Expiry: _____

I hereby declare that I have read and understand the information contained in this form and that the information I have provided is accurate and to the best of my knowledge. I authorize the release of my driver application to the Charter Board and / or its insurance agents.

Signature of volunteer: _____

Date: _____

The information on this application form is collected under the Alberta's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act to carry out our responsibilities under the School Act. If you have any questions about this form, please contact the school Principal.

Please attach copies of the following documentation:

- Photocopy of driver's license
- Photocopy of insurance indicating \$2m liability
- Photocopy of registration(s)

Approval:

Signature: _____

Appendix C – Volunteer Registration Form

Westmount Volunteer Registration Form 2015/2016

A volunteer is someone who assists our school and /or students either in curricular or extra-curricular activities but does not include guest speakers, presenters, visitors to the school or parents who assist their own child in the school.

In order to ensure the safety of the students, all volunteers in our schools need to be registered.

1. Determine if you are a [Category “A” volunteer](#) or a [Category “B” volunteer](#). If you are a Category A volunteer, please complete a PIC (Police Information Check). See <http://www.westmountcharter.com/parents/Volunteering.html> for more information.
2. Complete this registration form.
3. The **completed Registration form (and PIC for Category A)** must be received by our offices for you to become an approved Westmount volunteer.

Please check a box below to indicate your volunteer category:

- Category “A”** (Please complete the PIC process either online, or in person at a Calgary Police Service Station)
- Category “B”** (No PIC required)

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: (home) _____ (cell) _____

Do you have children or are you related to any children registered at this school?

Yes No

If yes, please list relationship to student(s):

Student:

Relationship:

If no to the previous question, please list at least two references (non-family members):

Name: _____ Telephone No: _____

-

**** I give WCS permission to contact the above individuals:** Yes No

Please supply us with your emergency contact information:

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Do you as a volunteer, have any allergies, physical limitations, disabilities, medical or health concerns that we should be aware of? Please specify.

As a volunteer, I fully understand and agree to the following:

- School volunteer service is permitted at the discretion of the Principal.

- I will preserve the confidentiality of any personal information which I may see or hear in respect to students, parents, staff or administration. I will hold all such information in the strictest of confidence and I shall not use, copy or disclose such information to any other individual in whole or in part, in any manner or form, unless I have obtained the permission of the Principal.

- Any information collected, used, generated, and stored by WCS including student, instructional, financial, or administrative information is strictly confidential and is to be used only in the performance of volunteer duties.

- I may not disclose, communicate, publish, take, alter, copy, interfere with, or destroy any information unless I am specifically authorized to do so by the teacher or Principal.
- Teaching and administration staff are responsible for student learning and discipline.
- I will refrain from bringing children with me that are not students of the class in which I am volunteering.
- School administration, teaching, and support staff have specific roles to play and it is important that the staff of a school operate as a team. A volunteer can assist greatly in enhancing student learning by working positively and cooperatively with the school team.
- Failure to comply with these conditions or WCS policies may result in termination of my position as a volunteer.

A VALID SECURITY CLEARANCE IS REQUIRED FOR ALL [CATEGORY "A" VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES](#) BEFORE A VOLUNTEER POSITION IS CONFIRMED

- By signing this volunteer application form, I agree to the conditions outlined. I certify that the information given in this form is true and correct and I agree that falsification or omission of information may result in my removal as a volunteer. I have read, understand and agree to [AP 555](#) and the current volunteer handbook.

If under the age of 18 a parent or legal guardian is to sign.

- I hereby certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of _____, a minor, and that s/he has my permission to serve as a volunteer. As the parent/legal guardian I understand and have full knowledge of the nature and extent of the risks involved with his/her participation as a volunteer.

Signature of volunteer or parent/legal guardian: _____

Date: _____

The information on this application form is collected under the Alberta's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act to carry out our responsibilities under the School Act. If you have any questions about this form, please contact the school Principal.

For Office use

Police information Check:	Approval:
Date completed: _____	Signature: _____
Date submitted: _____	Date submitted: _____
PIC Not Applicable: Category B Volunteer Activity <input type="checkbox"/>	