

Updates Made to Hands to Larger Service for 2018-2019



Based on the valuable feedback provided by those who took part in the Hands to Larger Service program in 2018, 4-H Canada is making the following updates to next year's program.

Dates have changed for applying

The timeframe to apply to the Hands to Larger Service program will now be September 4, 2018 to January 14, 2019.

This allows the application process dates for Youth Service Leaders to align with the application process for the Club to Club Exchange program. Changing the application dates has also allowed us to move up other key dates as part of Hands to Larger Service and Club to Club Exchange, allowing for a longer period of time to focus on the service projects YSLs and club will be working on.

Clubs can encourage their members, aged 18 to 25, to apply to be a Youth Service Leader (YSL) and YSLs can request to be paired with a specific club as part of their application.

Connecting clubs and Youth Service Leaders

To help with introductions, we will connect chaperones and YSLs via a video call in late February or early March. This will allow for chaperones and YSLs to ask any questions they may have and make the initial connection easier. The call will be facilitated by two 4-H Canada staff members.

4-H Canada will also provide at least one video call opportunity for each YSL to connect with their club during one of their early full group exchange meetings. If the YSL is from the same area as the club, the meeting will be held in person. This will allow the YSL and club to brainstorm and determine the focus of the project. This also allows for co-creation of the service project to happen from the start.

We recommend that this meeting include all participating club members, as ideas should relate to a project the youth members will feel excited about.

Age of the Youth Service Leaders has changed

We have changed the age of the Youth Service Leaders to ages 18 to 25 as of January 1, 2019.

YSLs who participated in 2018 who are still under the age of 18 are still eligible to apply.

Increasing the age will help with the logistics around travel, renting cars and hotel bookings. We believe that engaging experienced YSLs and increasing the age of new Youth Service Leaders will allow for a greater personal development opportunity. An additional benefit is for senior club members, who may be over the age limit for Club to Club Exchange participants, as they will have an opportunity to experience the program through a leadership role.

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Youth Service Leaders can join the club a day earlier

Instead of arriving the day before the implementation of the project, YSLs can arrive two days before the project. This extra day can allow the YSLs to organize a team-building activity, which they can lead in order to increase stronger communication and relationship-building with their club.

This extra day also provides more time to collect any materials needed for the project and allows time for any unexpected travel delays. It will be important for clubs to keep this in mind when planning their exchange activities.

Clear indication of roles

A document will be provided to Youth Service Leaders and chaperones that will clearly define each person's role. This will allow for a better understanding, smoother execution, and more impactful outcomes of the community service project.

