



Volunteer Position: **Allies – Sirius Girls Program**

Reports to: **Program Facilitator**

Want to be an ally? Are you passionate about inspiring and supporting girls to become confident young women? Sirius Girls presented by Carya in partnership with United Way's Women's Leadership Council's All In for Girls Initiative is a pilot program for high school girls. The program blends Social & Emotional Learning and Service Learning, two complementary ways to promote positive youth development. Sirius Girls will aid girls in developing essential life skills (Social & Emotional Learning) and with the support of volunteer women allies provide them opportunity to practice these skills through the development and implementation of community service projects that the girls identify as areas of interest or importance (Service Learning). Our goal is to support girls to reach a place of increased confidence, resiliency and leadership in their families, schools and community resulting in healthier, more connected communities for all girls and women to thrive.

"If we can intervene early in the lives of girls here and in other parts of the world, you can begin to change the prospects of the future" Jane Fonda

Qualifications:

- Must be a self aware, energetic, enthusiastic and committed individual who enjoys working with teens
- A willingness to drop your own agenda , share power, work in collaboration and build strong meaningful relationships with young women
- An attitude of curiosity, to be determined yet flexible and have a willingness to be on this journey together
- A comfort and openness to working with girls across differences of all sorts including life experiences, culture, beliefs and values
- Creativity, patience and empathy is required
- Strong interpersonal communication skills
- A desire to be involved in service-learning projects

Sharing power with girls requires overcoming our bias that adults know best and should be in charge. It also demands that we let go of our desire to control everything. Although this is usually driven by a genuine desire for things to go well, it can be very disempowering to participants. Creating a more inclusive and equal future requires us to become more aware of the dynamics of power...When power is genuinely shared, participants are much more likely to feel ownership of the process and a spirit of collaboration is more likely to flourish.

- Canadian Women's Foundation Blog "A Bold Vision" 09/24/2014

Duties:

- Support the girls as an ally in a group setting; listening, providing perspective, encouraging critical thinking and connecting the girls to opportunities, information, people and resources. (This is not your traditional 1-1 mentoring).
- Support and participate in planned program activities where the group will focus on service learning projects which will be unique ideas from the girls perspectives of something they want to change or influence in their world, at school or in their community.
- Contribute to a safe and respectful place for the girls to belong
- Active participation in supervision and focus groups to evaluate program
- Participation in occasional team building activities with girls and/or allies throughout the year

**Training:**

- Orientation to the policies and procedures of Carya and Sirius Girls will be provided including program model, philosophy, values, volunteer code of ethics, rights & responsibilities, and the ally role.
- We will provide ongoing support and training on positive youth development, effective youth adult partnerships and important topics and themes related to supporting and empowering vulnerable girls.

Time commitment:

- Volunteer screening, orientation and training:
 - 4-8 hours total (1-3 session over the course of the school year)
- Direct volunteering:
 - 8 month commitment/4-6 hours per month
 - This will include 2 to 3 -2 hour Service Learning sessions every month with the group (dependent on school schedule)
 - Sessions will run Tuesdays in Forest Lawn and Thursdays in James Fowler afterschool from approximately 3:30-5:30pm
 - Volunteers will be selected for each location
 - A monthly schedule will be determined in advance
 - There will also be a planned retreat, special events and family events that we hope volunteers will take part in of which may require some additional time
 - We will continue programming through the summer, there may be opportunities if volunteers like to stay connected and be involved in the program during this time

Benefits:

- Being a change maker as part of an innovative project uncovering strengths together so that girls and women may take risks, seize opportunities and contribute their gifts to our community.
- The opportunity to have a meaningful, purpose driven experience that will leverage your skills, experience and passion by providing an important safe space and relationship for young girls during a key transition time in her development.

Screening Requirements:

- All persons interested in volunteering must complete an application form
- All persons applying for volunteer positions will be interviewed by the Program Facilitator, or her designate.
- Acceptance as a volunteer is not automatic. The purpose of the interview is to determine if there is a mutual fit between the needs of the agency and the needs of the volunteers.
- As part of the volunteer screening the following background checks will be completed: Children's Service's Intervention Record Check, Police Check and reference checks

If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity please contact directly the Sirius Girls Program Facilitator at 587-891-9726 or email HR@caryacalgary.ca or visit www.caryacalgary.ca for more information

