



# Allies – Sirius Program

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

**Reports to:** Program Facilitator

**Are you passionate about inspiring and supporting girls to become confident young women? Want to be an ally?** Sirius Girls, presented by **carya**, is a program for high school students that blends Social & Emotional Learning and Service Learning to promote positive youth development. Sirius supports girls in developing essential life skills (Social & Emotional Learning) and, with the support of volunteer women allies, provides them opportunities to practice these skills through the development and implementation of community service projects. These projects are created by the youth based on areas of interest or importance to them (Service Learning). Sirius supports girls to build their confidence and to develop skills to become leaders and change-makers in their families, schools and communities. Our ultimate goal is for them to complete high school and successfully launch into adulthood.

Coming into the program, I expected to be a mentor – to share my time and some of the lessons I’ve learned in life so far. I truly didn’t expect to learn so much myself! Being a part of Sirius, I have learned to be a better listener, the joy of empowering and inspiring leadership in others, to reflect on topics I might not have otherwise have spent time contemplating, and about the current and very real issues that face our youth today... The greatest gift you can give is your undivided attention to truly hear and understand what our youth have to say. You don’t have to have all the answers and you don’t have to solve all the problems. Be a caring and interested sounding board.” Barbara, Ally

## 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

*“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*

## Duties:

- Act as an ally to support girls in a group setting; partnering, listening, providing perspective, encouraging critical thinking and connecting the girls to opportunities, information, people and resources. (This is not your traditional 1-1 mentoring and a time commitment is required).
- 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 other 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 – it is critical that volunteers be able to attend 75% of all sessions
  - 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 one 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 women during a key transition time in her development.
- Networking with other women and building relationships with other allies.

**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 and values of the agency and the needs and values 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 the Sirius Girls Program Facilitator at 587-891-9726 or email [HR@caryacalgary.ca](mailto:HR@caryacalgary.ca) Please Visit [www.caryacalgary.ca](http://www.caryacalgary.ca) for more information**