

The TeenWork Times

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University of Victoria



What's new?

- This past June, TeenWork job coaches facilitated Discovery group sessions with 6 new youth to help identify new participants' strengths and learning styles. TeenWork's third group Discovery was successful for job coaches and participants.
- As of March 31, 2017, TeenWork reported a 93 percent success rate for participants finding paid employment during their time in the program.
- During May and June 2017, 8 TeenWork participants found jobs!

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To protect TeenWork participants, CanAssist anonymizes their personal information and place of employment in promotional materials.

Employer spotlight



Starbucks is a unique coffee company with a devotion to creating a welcoming environment. True to its character, in early March, Starbucks hired TeenWork participant Mike to fill a part-time café attendant position at one of its Victoria locations. Mike greets customers, restocks products and maintains overall store cleanliness.

Mike is a positive, social and enthusiastic young man who previously worked at Ottavio's Italian Bakery & Delicatessen. This employment readied him for the Starbucks position, as he had gained experience working in the food industry as well as creating a comfortable and inviting environment for customers.

"It is important to Starbucks, as an engaged business in the Vancouver Island community, to encourage inclusivity and diversity in the workplace. Therefore, our specialized café attendant position attempts to build relationships and foster connections that involve all members of society," explained Kaylee Horneland, manager of the Starbucks store where Mike works.



The Starbucks mission involves connecting people, embracing diversity and building community inclusion and environmental sustainability. Starbucks honours the unique combination of skills, experiences and perspectives of each employee, customer, supplier and community. In addition, Starbucks has been committed to supporting Canadian youth and has been hiring young people in Canada for nearly 30 years. In fact, youth represent more than 60% of the company's employee base. By investing in youth employment programs such as TeenWork, Starbucks hopes that upon graduation, these youth will either find jobs or return to school to further their education.

Mike has been working at Starbucks for 4 months now and is very happy with his placement. When asked his favourite thing about working at Starbucks, Mike says "everything".



Job candidate profiles



Jonathan



Jonathan is a hard working and bright young man who is interested in a future career in information technology. He is hoping to find a rewarding job in Victoria, perhaps in the food sector, where he can gain valuable experience and employment skills. He currently volunteers as a lunch cafeteria assistant at his high school, and was given the Cafeteria Service Award 3 years in a row.

Educational Highlights

- grade 11 completed June 2017
- Food Safe Level 1, 2016

Experiential Highlights

- Operation Trackshoes Volunteer, UVic (Spring, 2015-2017)
- Cafeteria Assistant (2014-2016)

For more information please contact:
Karina Zobolotny | TeenWork Job Coach
P 250-472-5954 | C 250-886-7181
canassisttwjc1@uvic.ca

Kyle



Kyle is a compassionate student with a strong will to succeed and a knack for leadership. He is a fast learner, and prides himself on being sensible and quick on his feet. Kyle is eager to find a position in an organization or a business that believes in helping others, particularly in care and retirement homes, or summer programs for kids.

Educational Highlights

- grade 11 completed June 2017
- WHMIS, April 2017

Experiential Highlights

- Camp Leader and Animal Caretaker, Mary's Farm and Sanctuary (May 2016)
- Volunteer, Power to Be (2014-present)

For more information please contact:
Annie Do | TeenWork Job Coach
P 250-472-5954 | C 250-885-1018
anniedo@uvic.ca

Real youth, real stories



Camilla joined the TeenWork program in the fall of 2015 with the goal of developing her employability skills, making new connections and earning her own money.

From 2015 to 2016 she was employed in seasonal positions in retail, both at Winners and The Bay. Her job coaches worked with her to help familiarize her with the stores, and with learning new job tasks such as time management and multitasking. The experience and skills she gained during these opportunities in the areas of customer service and communication were easily transferrable to a new job that she commenced this spring.

This May, she began a position as a Sales Associate at a clothing store in Mayfair Mall. It is a fast paced job

where she greets customers, updates them on promotions and store specials, tidies the merchandise and assists customers in the fitting room area. She is thrilled with her new work. With her past experience in retail she was able to work independently with periodic check-ins after just her first shift on the job.

Camilla graduated from high school this spring, and hopes to continue her current employment through the summer and beyond. It is a great stepping stone for her future career path, and a valuable way for her to develop her confidence and determination to succeed. She is well on her way!

Job coach profiles



Mo is a recent graduate from the University of Victoria with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. He has worked as a Community Leader at UVic Residence Life & Education and gained a wealth of leadership skills in the areas of mentorship, conflict resolution, event planning and peer helping.

Karina joined the team at TeenWork in May 2017, bringing with her a background in International Education and Mental Health and Addictions. Most recently her work has been with young people and adults in psychosocial rehabilitation programs, using strengths-based and client-centered approaches to care.



Anna is a fourth year student at the University of Victoria studying Psychology. She is doing a Co-op work term here at CanAssist. She has experience and a passion for working directly with children and youth with developmental disabilities and mental illness so she is thrilled to spend the summer working as a Job Coach at TeenWork.

Donor recognition

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TeenWork at CanAssist University of Victoria

The University of Victoria, CARSA

PO Box 1700, STN CSC

Victoria, BC

V8W 2Y2

(250) 721-7300

www.canassist.ca/teenwork

