



Soccer camp at Confederation Park



VOLUNTEER BURNABY

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Score with Volunteering: "Volunteering is fun!"

by Kelina Kwan

Do you love the outdoors? Do you like to work with kids? Do you want to have fun? If your answer is "yes" to all three questions, you should check out the 20th annual Super Summer Soccer Camp hosted by the Royal Soccer Club in Burnaby from July 3 to August 31, 2012.

For the past 20 years, the Royal Soccer Club has been organizing soccer summer day camps for children aged 5 to 13 years. Soccer camps in BC started 3 years ago, and they have two locations in Burnaby – Burnaby Lake East Fields and Burnaby Confederation Park. These two locations are made possible by community involvement, and in two years, they have become the biggest camps in BC in terms of enrolment.

The soccer summer camps are not only a great way for children to learn soccer skills, team work, and have fun, it is also a great opportunity for young people to volunteer in an active and healthy

environment. The Royal Soccer Club's Volunteer Program promotes personal development, community involvement, friendship and an active lifestyle. It also helps develop job skills, personal skills and athletic skills.

When asked about volunteer positions available, Adriana Fierastrau, Coordinator at the Royal Soccer Club said they have "one volunteer position – everyone is a volunteer!" Once you become a volunteer, you will have opportunities to get involved in a wide range of activities ranging from helping with setup, helping with organizing kids into groups, helping to promote the buddy system, taking kids to their swimming locations and so on. This multi-faceted "position" helps young volunteers develop many invaluable skills.

"There is a lot of team work involved," said Fierastrau. "There is a lot of interaction with kids. You learn interpersonal skills, how to socialize with

people in different age groups, and most of all, you get direct experience working with children." Fierastrau pointed out that experience in interaction with children is particularly useful for volunteers who want to go into career in childcare or get into teachers' college. "You learn how to interact with kids who are looking up to you as well as working with supervisors in a mentoring type of environment."

Volunteers also learn about work ethics. Each volunteer is required to sign a "volunteer contract" which states their commitment on certain dates, for certain number of hours. This is a very valuable experience in work ethics and commitment for young people as this is possibly their first "contract" with an organization.

Volunteering with the Royal Soccer Club is fun! Volunteers are on the go and active all the time. "You are not only promoting an active and healthy lifestyle but you are also teaching another age group to be active and healthy", said Fierastrau. On top of it all, volunteers get to learn basic soccer skills. "A lot of volunteers for the camps have never played soccer before, but they are interested. Here they can learn basic soccer skills and learn it with the kids. It is fun!" Fierastrau also pointed out that being a volunteer is often the first step to becoming a paid position. Many of their paid staff members were former campers and volunteers.

The Royal Soccer Club is actively looking for volunteers aged between 14 to 17 years for this summer's camp in Burnaby.

During the 2011 season, the Club only has 23 volunteers from BC amongst of total of 263 volunteers. Having the largest camps in their program, the Club will need many more volunteers in BC this year. In their quest for volunteers, the Royal Soccer Club approached different volunteering organizations for assistance, and they are very thankful for the help Volunteer Burnaby has given them.

If you want to have a fun-filled summer, work with kids and learn new skills, apply to be a volunteer for the Royal Soccer Club Super Summer Soccer+ Camp in Burnaby. Applying for a position is easy. Visit their website at www.royalsoccer.com/british-columbia, go to the staff section and create an account. Once an account is created, you can apply for a volunteer position. Application form can also be downloaded through the website. For more information on the Royal

Soccer Club, camp programs and camp calendar, please visit www.royalsoccer.com. Or call 1-800-427-0536.

For more information on how to get involved in your community, please contact Volunteer Burnaby through their website at www.volunteerburnaby.ca or call 604.294.5533.

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Volunteer of the Month...



Neena Dharsi
has been has been volunteering with Volunteer Burnaby for the past year. Neena is highly knowledgeable in the field of computer systems technology. She has assisted Volunteer Burnaby staff in the development of a more advanced database system, has created marketing tools and has provided a layer of support to the day to day operations. We are fortunate to have Neena share her time and expertise with us. She is a bright young resource with lots to offer.

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