



## Volunteer Recruitment Brief

### The Heat Shield: A Youth-Led, Extreme-Heat Public Health Mission to Build Community Resilience in a Warming Climate

**Volunteer Coordinator:** Melody Li

**Recruiting:** 20 Volunteers

**Register here:** <https://volunteer.youcount.ca/i/G25>

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#### The Ask

I am actively assembling a team of 20 motivated youth volunteers to kick off 'The Heat Shield', a youth-led extreme-heat public health project hosted through GLOCAL's All-You-Can-Volunteer-Online Program. I am on the hunt for energetic, curious people who want hands-on learning in evidence-based research, plain-language knowledge translation, design, and community outreach and distribution. Volunteers will be on-boarded into stage-based tasks at any time so that work can begin immediately and new volunteers can easily slot into existing or chosen community streams.

#### Project Summary

##### The Challenge

Extreme heat is already Canada's deadliest climate hazard, and heatwaves are rapidly becoming a regular part of Canadian summers. Yet life-saving guidance is often buried in dense government reports, 40-page technical documents, or academic journals that people cannot practically access or use during a 40°C emergency. This creates a dangerous civic knowledge gap—a 'silent emergency'—where those who need clear, actionable information most find it hardest to get. Seniors, newcomers, renters, and people living in poorly cooled or high-risk housing are disproportionately affected, and are often left navigating extreme heat without accessible, timely, and understandable guidance to protect themselves and their communities, highlighting persistent gaps in outreach, infrastructure, and climate preparedness that increase the exposure of the most vulnerable to preventable health risks.

## **Our Response**

'The Heat Shield' trains youth as 'knowledge refiners': volunteers systematically identify the most reliable public-health evidence (from sources like Health Canada and the World Health Organization), verify and audit key heat-health facts, and then translate that evidence into plain-language, action-oriented Resilience Kits designed for real-world use. These kits include one-page checklists, 1–2-page community briefs, and short FAQs designed for clarity and ease of use in high-stress, high-temperature situations. Volunteers will then distribute to trusted local partners—such as libraries, seniors' centres, tenant associations, and settlement agencies—to ensure that the information reaches actual community spaces rather than remaining online. Volunteers will work through two linked cycles (foundation building + mobilization and localization) so that outputs are research-grounded and distribution-ready. This structured approach ensures that every recommendation is evidence-based, clearly written, community-informed and -tested, and distribution-ready—transforming scientific knowledge into practical tools that can be used immediately during real-time extreme heat events.

## **Our Strategy – Two High-Impact Cycles:**

### **CYCLE 1 | FOUNDATION BUILDING**

Cycle 1 builds the scientific and structural backbone of the project. Volunteers conduct focused research to compile 5–10 verified heat-health facts per community, cite reputable public health sources, and assign confidence ratings through a basic forensic audit. They will then translate technical findings into 1–2 sentence plain-language statements ending in clear actions, and draft practical tools including a 1–2-page Community Research Brief, a 1-page Heat Preparedness Checklist, and short FAQs with a mini glossary. Each draft undergoes a 'Grandma Test' and feasibility review to ensure clarity, realism, and accessibility. The cycle concludes with organized draft community kits and an internal snapshot of progress—resulting in a verified evidence base and research-grounded draft Resilience Kits ready for mobilization.

### **CYCLE 2 | MOBILIZATION, LOCALIZATION, & DISTRIBUTION**

Cycle 2 moves from drafting to real-world action. Volunteers will identify 4–6 trusted gatekeeper organizations per community, prepare outreach scripts, conduct structured contact attempts, and summarize early feedback to refine materials. They finalize printable, accessibility-checked PDFs, prepare shareable partner copy, and ensure formatting consistency across phone and print formats. During a one-week 'Go-Live Blitz', volunteers execute placements or distribute finalized kits to partners and collect brief structured feedback. The cycle concludes with minor revisions, finalized community folders, and contributions to the Master Civic Toolkit—producing community-validated, distribution-ready Resilience Kits and documented outreach impact ready for replication or scale.

## High-Level Overview of Volunteer Tasks

- Find accurate, trusted information about heat and health (e.g., Health Canada, WHO) and verify key facts.
- Translate evidence into plain-language, community-tailored guidance.
- Produce printable Resilience Kits (checklists, briefs, FAQs) adapted for specific communities (e.g., seniors, newcomers, renters, neighbourhoods).
- Conduct outreach to local gatekeepers to distribute materials and gather partner feedback.
- Contribute to a shared Master Civic Toolkit and Succession Brief to support future cohorts and scale the work.

\*Please note that a more detailed outline and breakdown of project tasks is available upon request.

## Time & Commitment

This role contributes toward GLOCAL's verified 120-hour certificate. Volunteers can expect to spend 24–40 hours across the entire project. Early weeks focus more on research and drafting (Cycle 1), while later weeks emphasize design, outreach, and distribution (Cycle 2). All tasks are modular, allowing flexible participation and smooth onboarding for volunteers who join mid-project.

## Who Should Apply

**Youth aged 12–30 who are Canadian citizens, permanent residents, or recognized refugees.** Ideal for students, community leaders, early career applicants, and anyone with interest in science, the environment, climate change, environmental health, public health, planetary health, research, communications, design, and civic outreach. No prior scientific or professional experience is required—we provide all the templates, onboarding, mentorship, and peer support you need to succeed.

## Why This Matters

'The Heat Shield' fills a practical civic gap: it turns reliable public health evidence into short, actionable materials that people and local organizations can use during heat events. Volunteers gain real, verifiable experience while delivering life-ready resources to communities that need them.

## About GLOCAL and its All-You-Can-Volunteer-Online Program

The GLOCAL Foundation of Canada is a national non-profit dedicated to making civic participation accessible, inclusive, and innovative. We equip young Canadians and underserved communities with transferable skills to turn local ideas into real-world impact. Join us and help shape Canada's future through service.

GLOCAL's All-You-Can-Volunteer-Online Program gathers young people across Canada in a single digital civic space that offers **flexible, accessible, and skill-building** volunteer opportunities. The program is designed for busy youth who want to contribute on their own schedules, build career-relevant portfolios, and connect to national networks. Learn more about the program and platform here: <https://volunteer.youcount.ca/>.

### Core Features

- **Flexible learning & verified service:** Complete a total of **120 hours** across three modules: 30 hours training/civic exploration, 60 hours project work, and 30 hours of bite-sized civic challenges. Participants can complete the hours at their own pace before **December 2026**.
- **High-quality training:** Workshops cover leadership, communications, grants management, design thinking, data skills, cybersecurity, and more—and include guest speakers and mentorship opportunities.
- **Passion-driven project work:** Volunteers choose civic issues they care about (e.g., climate, mental health, education, culture, justice) and either join existing initiatives or launch micro-projects within GLOCAL's six tracks: research, data, compliance, outreach, communications, and digital.
- **Bite-sized missions:** Hundreds of short, impactful tasks that let volunteers build skills while making measurable contributions.
- **Verified recognition:** Volunteers who complete 120 hours receive a **digital certificate** of verified civic service signed by The Honourable Patty Hajdu, the Minister of Jobs and Families (valuable on applications and résumés).
- **Pathways & perks:** Skill portfolios, mentorship, and priority access to micro-grants, summer jobs, and storytelling platforms.

## **What Volunteers Gain**

- Be part of a nationwide youth movement shaping Canada's future through service.
- The opportunity to work together with other youth volunteers on real projects that serve the public interest and see immediate, measurable community impact.
- Mentorship and networking with professionals and peers across Canada through a supportive national, cross-sector network that turns volunteer experience into job-ready skills.
- Priority access to GLOCAL's microgrants, summer jobs, and storytelling initiatives.

## **Eligibility & Inclusion**

**Volunteers must be 12–30 years old and be Canadian citizens, permanent residents, or have recognized refugee status.** GLOCAL emphasizes inclusion, accessible design, and culturally appropriate translation to ensure outputs serve diverse communities.