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Dear school,

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about this exciting opportunity. As you may already know Volunteer Airdrie's mission is "To empower Airdrie residents to invest in themselves and their community through volunteerism." Volunteer Airdrie (VA) has been a part of the community since 2010 and is looking forward to an inclusive neighbourly future by investing in our most valuable community resource, our youth. We are excited to be offering the LEAD youth program for the first time in Airdrie, AB.

What is LEAD?

LEAD is a program that was created for youth grades 7-12 by the City of Calgary and has been successfully operating for over ten years. LEAD is an acronym for; leadership, empowerment and achieving a difference. The curriculum will be offered free of charge to youth as weekly two hour sessions over a ten week period. Modules include the following topics: Leadership, Personal wellness, Communication, Teamwork, Problem solving and decision making, Conflict management, Diversity, Planning and organizing, Leisure education, and Public speaking. The program also includes 20 hours of volunteer practicum experience. Once the youth has successfully completed the modules and practicum they will receive a certificate. In addition to the experience, learning, bridging of community partnership and confidence built through this program, the certificate provides youth a way to "stand out from the crowd" in their resume and/or post-secondary applications.

How can (school) get involved?

VA will provide the school with posters and information brochures about LEAD. We could also conduct a presentation to the students and/or the staff about the program if requested. To assist in the registration process, a representative from the school will be asked to complete a brief questionnaire on their perspective of the youths experience with the LEAD program. We would ask the school to encourage students to register in the program as an extra-curricular after school activity, and then offer support while they complete the curriculum modules and fulfill their volunteer practicum. We would like the school to also identify volunteer opportunities so that youth can support their school while completing the LEAD program. Recognition and acknowledgement of the youths involvement in VA's program reinforces the students efforts and commitment, as well as motivate other youth to take part in future opportunities. Recognition could be in the form of acknowledgement during an assembly, school newsletter or through academic credits if applicable. The school may want to consider contacting VA about running future LEAD programs within the school.

Volunteer Airdrie is planning to launch the LEAD program, free of charge, to youth in Airdrie March 2017. We welcome any further discussion and question you may have about the program and invite you to arrange a meeting with one of the VA facilitators at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Volunteer Airdrie Board of Directors.
Email: info@volunteerairdrie.ca
Call or Text: 403-993-5034
[Volunteer Airdrie](#)

you make the difference...