



VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with the TWC to facilitate a writing workshop as part of the Toronto Writers Collective's creative writing workshops in collaboration with Ve'ahavta. We provide free creative writing workshops throughout the GTA to underserved communities. By creating a community of writers from all economic backgrounds, races, ages and sexual orientations, we encourage people to gain confidence and a stronger sense of self, find and expand their voices and discover the value of their own stories.

Volunteer workshop leaders are required to participate in our extensive training and support program. This program includes: 1) a full weekend of training; 2) attending quarterly meetings of workshop facilitators; and 3) regular contact with the program manager. Because supporting each workshop facilitator requires the use of dedicated resources, **we ask that volunteer workshop facilitators commit to a minimum of 1 ten-week session of writing workshops**. Sessions are 1 ½ - 2 hours per week at locations throughout the city. (A subsequent commitment, after the initial session, is encouraged).

Our next training session will be held in late February or early March, 2016 (dates and location to be confirmed). The training is a full weekend (Friday from 7 to 10 PM and Saturday and Sunday from 10 am to 6 PM each day). Workshops that facilitators will shadow and co-facilitate with an experienced facilitator will begin shortly after the training session is completed.

Space in the training is limited, so not everyone who applies to volunteer will be accepted. Preference will be given to those with: experience in writing groups of some sort; a history of community involvement; ties to the community they propose to serve; facilitation, leadership or teaching experience; a commitment to and understanding of TWC's philosophy of creating a respectful and positive environment for people to write in; and, a flexible schedule with some weekday availability.

Please answer each of the questions on the following pages as fully and concisely as possible. Feel free to attach additional sheets of paper as necessary.

Thanks again for your interest.

Date _____

Name _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Evening Phone: _____

Address _____

Email _____

Are you over 21 years old? Yes _____ No _____

Are you willing to submit to a standard background check?

Yes _____ No _____

Which training session are you interested in?

Winter 2016 _____ Future dates _____

Are you willing to commit to a minimum 10 week session of facilitating workshops
(90 minute sessions once a week for 10 weeks) with TWC?

Yes _____ No _____

Are you fluent in any language other than English?

Yes _____ No _____ If yes, which one(s)? _____

What is your availability for workshop facilitation?

Day (specify days) _____

Evening (specify evenings) _____

Both (specify day & time) _____

Weekend _____

Are you away during the winter months?

(Specify) _____

Are you away during the summer months?

(Specify) _____

Briefly describe any previous volunteer and/or social service experience you have had.

Briefly describe the role creative writing plays in your life.

What experiences have you had in writing workshops as a participant and/or as a facilitator?

What does the phrase “safe space for writing” mean to you?

In your opinion, what is the distinction between “teaching” and “leading” or “facilitation”?

Please describe any life experiences you have had that you think will be helpful to you in leading writing workshops with the TWC & Ve'ahavta, or that have led you to want to volunteer with us.

What groups are you most interested in working with? Are there any groups that you do not feel comfortable working with? (This question is purely to determine your interest and bears no weight in considering your application, so please answer honestly)?

How did you hear about the TWC workshops or Creative Writing Program?

Signature: _____ Date: _____

If there is anything else you would like us to know about you, please attach a note with this application.

Please scan and email your completed application to:

jesse@torontowriterscollective.ca Feel free to contact Jesse Cohoon at 647-261-3720 if you have any questions. Thank you!