

About the Student Work and Service Program (SWASP)

The Community Service Component of SWASP is a unique program that serves post-secondary students and nonprofit organizations. SWASP enables students to work in their home community during the summer, develop transferable skills, explore career interests and earn both a tuition voucher and a weekly stipend. SWASP students help nonprofit community groups improve the quality of life in communities across Newfoundland and Labrador.

This program is delivered by the Community Sector Council Newfoundland and Labrador (CSC) and funded by Service Canada. Voucher payments to post secondary institutions are administered by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

"The SWASP Program is an excellent program that allows participants to gain employable skills and financial assistance to further their education."

- Sponsor, SWASP 2012

This year by the numbers

Students

- ◆ 299 students placed
- ◆ 71% of students from rural NL
- ◆ 36% were recent graduates
- ◆ 64% were in post-secondary

Sponsors

- ◆ 285 organization sponsors
- ◆ 34% have no staff
- ◆ 47% have 5 or fewer staff

Students learned

- ◆ Communications skills
- ◆ Interpersonal skills
- ◆ Time management
- ◆ Organization
- ◆ Office administration
- ◆ Creative and artistic skills
- ◆ How to work with children, youth, seniors, people with disabilities

Students gained

- ◆ Work ethic
- ◆ Confidence
- ◆ Self-esteem
- ◆ Exposure to the nonprofit sector
- ◆ Personal development
- ◆ Career advancement

Who we are SWASP placement examples

Adam Tremblett stands ready to assist tourists on behalf of the Gander & Area Chamber of Commerce. Photo courtesy of Terri Saunders, The Beacon.



Jacelle Somerton finishing up her historical research on Bowring Park. Photo courtesy of Bowring Park Foundation.

Zac Cross (right, far left) in the play Harry Hibbs Returns! at the summer Festival in Trinity with Rising Tide Theatre. Photo courtesy of Brian Riggs Photography.



Where we are SWASP on the map

154 communities in Newfoundland and Labrador were home to SWASP placements in 2012

"SWASP offers summer employment which is sometimes hard to get in a small rural community."

- Student, SWASP 2012


SWASP Placement Ratings

Feedback collected from students and sponsors at various phases of their placement allows us to gauge how the placements impact participants and their perception of the program itself. Feedback was collected from **100%** of sponsors and students in 2012, yielding very positive results.




100%

of sponsors rated SWASP as Good or Excellent



96%

of placements were in a student's home community



95%

of students rated SWASP as Good or Excellent

Impact on Students

Students complete surveys to help us understand how the SWASP program impacted them over the eight weeks.

"SWASP is always a win-win situation. We are extremely pleased to be able to get SWASP jobs for young students who need the tuition vouchers and we get much needed work done in our community."

- Sponsor, SWASP 2012

As a result of SWASP:

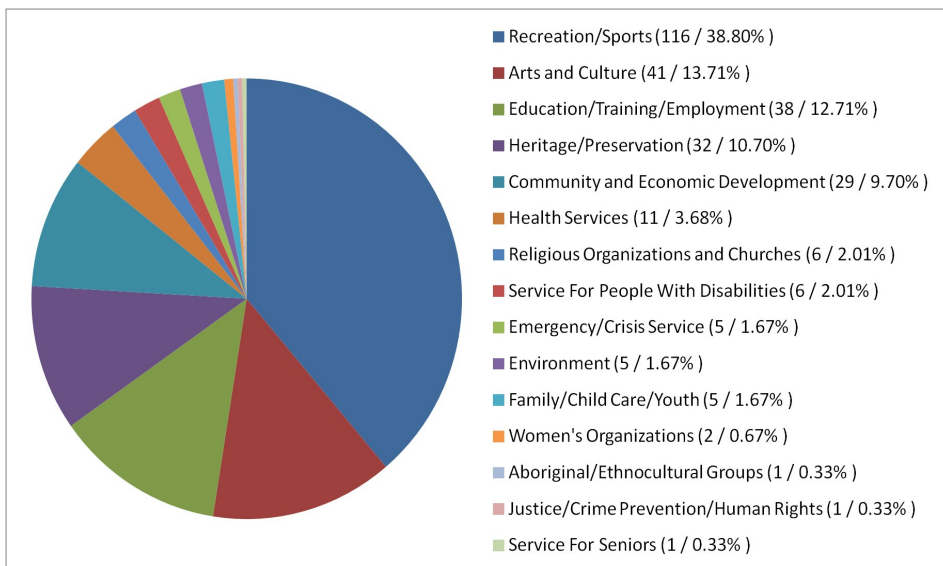
- ◆ 92% felt they were making an impact on their community
- ◆ 94% think their placement will count as relevant work experience
- ◆ 88% learned skills that they will find useful in the future
- ◆ 86% plan to stay in contact with their sponsor organization
- ◆ 97% say they were treated as equals in the workplace
- ◆ 96% felt appropriately supported by their supervisor

Without SWASP:

- ◆ Only 54% say they would have gotten a job in their home community
- ◆ Only 17% felt they would have found a job related to their field of study
- ◆ 77% would not have worked for a nonprofit this past summer

The Work Being Done

SWASP students contribute to the nonprofit community sector in many ways, ranging from running summer sports to artistic pursuits to helping preserve the history of their local communities. Their energy and creativity fuel community organizations and assist them in achieving their goals. SWASP 2012 placements comprised the following types of work:



"SWASP allowed me to become employed with an organization that is directly related to my career of choice. I was very lucky to be given an opportunity that allowed me to learn so much about my future responsibilities and immerse myself in a field I love."