

Winter Break Community Engagement Fund

Questions? Contact Tom Ancona – tancona@bowdoin.edu or 207-798-4189

The Winter Break Community Engagement Fund provides \$750 to support students in committing to reciprocally impactful community engagement during the 2022-23 winter break. Participants will commit to providing 50 hours of volunteer service to a non-profit or municipal organization and will receive training, support in identifying a host site, and a fellowship award from the McKeen Center. Volunteer work can be remote or in-person.

Who is eligible to apply?

Students must receive financial aid from Bowdoin to be eligible for this award. If there are more requests than funds, the selection committee may consider factors including whether students have received the funding previously and the strength of the case made in the application.

Commitments

- Students may apply for funding to support completion of 50 hours of unpaid community-engaged work with a non-profit or municipal organization.
- Work is to be completed during winter break (December 20 to January 22)
- After winter break, awardees will summarize their experience in the form of a photo, description of their work, and short first-person reflection on their experience

Application Process

- Applications are due on Wednesday, November 9 at 12:00 PM. The application can be accessed here: https://bowdoincollege.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eaKX0yCpA3H77Ho.
- Applications will be reviewed by a committee of McKeen Center staff.
- Applicants are required to attend an information session prior to completing the application. The session will include guidance on how to identify and communicate with a potential community partner site and best practices of community engagement. A recording of this session will be available after the fact for those who cannot make the meeting.

Key Dates

October 21	Application open
November 2	Information session, 6pm
November 9	Application due, 12:00pm
November 14	Applicants Notified
December 5	Rolling Application Due
January 22	Final Materials Due, 11:59pm

How do I apply?

- Attend an information session on November 2nd to learn about best practices in community engagement and how to approach the organization you want to work with.
- Identify and contact a partner organization (nonprofit or municipal) that you would like to work with and receive confirmation from them that you can volunteer with them for 50 hours prior to January 21 (the end of winter break). You can use this [email template](#) as a basis for outreach.
- [Complete the application](#), which includes a personal statement, confirmation from your partner organization(s), and contact information for two references.

FAQs

Should the volunteer work be remote or in person? Either! The needs of community organizations vary greatly and we want you to find the role that best suits your interests. Many organizations may have projects that can be completed virtually while others may have work that can only be done in-person. The key is to communicate clearly with your potential partner site about what you are comfortable with and what their specific needs are. Make sure to follow any local, state, or federal orders related to the pandemic that may apply to you.

Is this funding for travel? No. You should find a volunteer site in the community you plan to reside in during winter break, or work with an organization remotely.

Where can I volunteer? You can work with any non-profit organization or municipal agency (such as a town office, planning department, or K-12 school).

Can I do an independent project on my own? No. There should be a community partner that hosts you in some way to ensure that you are providing a needed service and that your work will benefit local communities. If you have an idea for a new project related to work of an existing organization, approach that organization to find out if they are interested in working with you.

How does the hours commitment work? You will be awarded funding to complete 50 hours of volunteer work and it is up to you and your partner site to decide how you want to divide those hours up over winter break. Your community partner may be asked to verify the number of hours you complete.

When can I start my volunteer hours? You can begin as soon as you are approved by the McKeen Center. We recommend waiting until after your finals end, and many organizations may prefer you to wait until after the New Year holiday.

I'm an international student. Am I eligible to apply? You may be eligible, but it will depend on your living situation over winter break! Please contact Tom Ancona for more information.

Will these funds be taxable? Taxes will not be deducted from your fellowship payment; however, you may be required to report the amount when you file your annual tax return. You will receive a letter from the Controller's Office detailing the amount of the fellowship payment and in-kind support you have received. You may need that letter when preparing your annual tax return. More information about taxation will be provided to award recipients.