

## A cooperative education experiential learning program for secondary school students outside the classroom

### WHAT IS BE OUR GUEST?

The Be Our Guest (BOG) program immerses secondary school students in a learning experience where they are active participants in a hospitality environments and communities outside the classroom. It gives students a chance to think about their future career path with an opportunity to apply their learning while exposed to various jobs in the hospitality industry.

### ABOUT US

Be Our Guest was founded in 2017 by a group of innovative hospitality leaders that took the first step to design and launch the experiential student program in Toronto District School Board (TDSB) high schools. Be Our Guest operates through the collaboration of Ontario school boards, hospitality organizations and OHI – We Are Hospitality. Hundreds of BOG student graduates have become employed in the numerous career opportunities in hospitality and developed transferrable skills to take them into varied occupations.

### STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

"I learned things about the hospitality industry I didn't know before!"

"I would like to work in hospitality now."

"After taking the Be Our Guest Program, I have more confidence and I feel ready to get a job in hospitality."

"Before taking the Be Our Guest Program, I did not know the hospitality industry was so exciting!"

### HOW DOES BE OUR GUEST WORK?

A hotel or foodservice company agrees to provide a placement experience and designates an employee to supervise the learning. A scheduled interview determines the student's acceptance with the organization. Work schedules are based on the student's timetable and the time of year of their eligibility for the placement.

Placement students are typically in the senior grades and have a post-secondary pathway that could be college, university, an apprenticeship, or work. Placement learning opportunities are linked with a student's academic studies, education plan, personal goals and abilities, through a Student Cooperative Education Learning Plan co-developed by the student, teacher, and with input from the placement supervisor.



## LEARNING AND TRAINING

The Learning Plan helps students determine the types of learning opportunities (i.e. tasks, activities) in which they will participate, where those opportunities will occur, experience timelines, resources required, and the nature and extent of support and feedback the students will need. Learning Plan development is a dynamic process with ongoing review throughout the placement experience. Student progress is monitored regularly by the teacher and supervisor to support student learning and achievement.

### STUDENTS:

- Explore career choices in hospitality through real-world work experience in varied hotel/food service departments
- Increase awareness of workplace demands and needs
- Develop transferable employment skills
- Apply classroom learning to workplace experiences
- Earn credits for secondary school diploma
- Build a network for future employment
- Enhance acceptance possibilities to post-secondary or training programs

### PLACEMENT SUPERVISORS:

- Provide students with rich, relevant experiences
- Develop supervisory skills through personal leadership growth
- Share expertise, knowledge and skills
- Promote awareness of job opportunities In hospitality
- Mentor and inspire students as they develop career & life goals
- Contribute to students' education and to Ontario's future workforce needs

### TEACHERS:

- Be involved in providing students with life-changing, hands-on work experiences
- Prepare students for a transition to the workplace
- Increase student soft skills development that leads to confidence and problem-solving
- Provide the opportunity for students to observe the hard skills of a trained professional
- Assist students in meeting potential employers
- Enhance acceptance of students' options into post-secondary and training programs



For more information on Be Our Guest and/or how to get involved, visit our website at [www.beourguestprogram.ca](http://www.beourguestprogram.ca)



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Hospitality.**

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