



Cyber-Seniors Program for Educators and Youth Leaders

Who We Are

Building on Director Saffron Cassaday's 2014 award-winning documentary film and the high school community service project that inspired it, Cyber-Seniors is a non-profit organization that connects tech-savvy youth to older adults. Since its inception in 2015, Cyber-Seniors has developed and disseminated thousands of resources that have enabled organizations throughout North America and the world to provide tech-training for senior citizens using an intergenerational, youth volunteer model. Youth are provided with lessons and learning activities to train them to act as digital mentors and senior citizens gain access to effective technology training and intergenerational communities that keep them socially connected and engaged.

Our Mission

Cyber-Seniors' mission is to bridge the digital divide and connect generations through technology.

Pre-COVID, Cyber-Seniors achieved this mission by working with community partners to provide in-person mentoring. When COVID-19 restrictions were imposed, Cyber-Seniors responded by adapting its existing service delivery model to a virtual format with the following goals:

- To deliver tech-training and support to senior citizens, such that they are able to remain socially connected and self-sufficient during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.
- To provide meaningful volunteer work for young people whose education has been interrupted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- To provide support to our community partners who are facing challenges in continuing to carry on their important work in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

How to get involved

There are two ways your students/youth can get involved with Cyber-Seniors.

1. VOLUNTEER AS A VIRTUAL CYBER-SENIORS MENTOR

As a volunteer with Cyber-Seniors, students have the chance to put their technology skills to good use and earn community service hours, all while staying safe.

Step 1

- Students complete the Cyber-Seniors Mentor Training Program online. This Program consists of video lessons, learning activities and hand-in assignments; all with the goal of preparing youth to become effective and compassionate teachers to older adults

www.cyberseniors.org

- Students wishing to sign up individually can follow <https://cyberseniors.org/volunteers/> for our volunteer registration form.
- Educators/Youth Leaders who may have multiple students interested in volunteering can choose to register their students as a group; please follow <https://cyberseniors.org/organizations/> to register for a group membership.

Step 2

- Students complete a Volunteer Profile online, indicating their availability, technology skills and languages in which they are able to offer support.

Step 3

- Students will be notified of volunteer opportunities that match their profile. These include participating in group webinars and offering one-on-one mentoring for seniors.

Student volunteer hours are tracked and supporting reports and certificates of completion can be downloaded directly from the Cyber-Seniors website.

2. SUPERVISED INTERNSHIPS/CO-OP PLACEMENTS

Cyber-Seniors provides supervised online internships where students can receive real work experience. Under the supervision of a Cyber-Seniors staff member, students are assigned a work project based on their interest, course requirement and qualifications. Some examples of work projects students may be assigned include:

- Creating content for Social Media and Cyber-Seniors Newsletters
- Data entry and report running
- Creating interactive (virtual) activities for Seniors
- Carrying out independent research and creating targeted community outreach lists
- Video editing

Please note that interns must also complete the Cyber-Seniors Mentor Training Program and at least a portion of their internship will involve virtual mentoring.

The internship work process

- All work shifts are a minimum of 3 consecutive hours.
- Each intern is assigned a supervisor and given set work hours and days.
- At the beginning of each shift the Intern is required to report to their supervisor and discuss their work assignments for the day.
- In most cases, the intern is given at least one mentoring assignment per shift. Mentoring assignments last approximately one hour and entail either participating in tech-training webinars or providing one-on-one tech support.
- Throughout the Intern's shift they are required to provide updates and share documentation of their work with their Supervisor. They may also indicate their progress on a Google Doc and attach any relevant documentation.

www.cyberseniors.org

- At the end of each work shift Interns are required to check in with their Supervisor, to deliver a status report of their work and share any relevant documentation.
- Interns also take part in staff team meetings and may be required to present their work to their colleagues.

A nominal fee may apply based on the level of supervision and reporting required.

If you are interested in placing your students with Cyber-Seniors, please complete and submit the [“Internship Request Form”](#). Tess Finlay, Volunteer Recruiter, will contact you.

www.cyberseniors.org