



Volunteer Profile: John



What grades are your children in?

Our daughter and youngest is in grade 9. Her two brothers also went to Connect and are in grade 12 and 2nd year university.

What are your current personal, professional, and volunteer commitments?
Connect Charter School cross country ski custodian.

When did you first become a part of the school community?
September 2008, a grade 4 trip to Camp Sweet.

What made you decide to volunteer with Connect Charter School?

The first trip also involved sanding down and re-staining the outside the the Sweet Cabin. I thought that was something I could be helpful with. I quickly learned it was also fun.

What do you consider the best part of volunteering at our school?

It allows the teachers and admin the time to focus on the kids.

What are some of the rewards?

Any opportunity to sleep in a tent outside in fresh air is always bonus.

Tell us about the volunteering you do at Connect Charter School.

I have helped out on many outdoor ed trips, the Camp Sweet Work Bee and helping with bike repairs. Also for the past several years I have taken care of all the cross country skis, making repairs / ensuring that they are ready to go at the start start of each season plus, as strange as it sounds, hot waxing them at the end of the season before they go in to summer storage. This will ensure they last longer.

How much time do you put into this role?

One day at the start of the season and one day at the end of the season, plus a few hours here and there with repairs. Note I don't do it alone, there are other helpful parents that come out and help too. I even get help from a couple Connect alumni.

What makes this position a great fit for you?

I think it is amazing the the school has equipment like skis, camping gear, instruments, etc and I appreciate that the school has limited budget for replacing it, so its important to maintain it. Plus I worked in a sports rental store in high school and university so I have repaired a lot of skis...

What kind of volunteer opportunities do you hope to be a part of in the future?

While it is our 11th consecutive year with a child at Connect, it is also our last, so sadly my volunteer time may be coming to an end. Hopefully I can go on one more outdoor ed trip or camp.

What would you tell someone who hasn't volunteered with Connect before but is thinking about it?

I haven't come across a volunteer that wasn't enjoying it.

Bonus Questions:

Tell us something about yourself that most people don't know about you?

I have designed and or built over a dozen backcountry outhouses in the mountains for the Alpine Club of Canada.

Tell us a fun story from one of your overnight outdoor ed trips or other volunteer experiences. At Bamfield, I was super tired from "hall monitor" duty the night before, so during a rare sunny break between classes, I got the students in my group to lie on the grass, stare at the sky and learn the "art of the 5 minute nap". I think a couple admitted it was enjoyable.

What's your favourite camp food? Mmmmmm bacon.

Whats your favourite campfire song? Purple Stew.

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- JOHN, PARENT VOLUNTEER