

Initial Training

Why Training?

The purpose of training is to develop a quality of presence, a listening openness that sensitizes the candidate to the experiences being lived through by the people they are visiting. We also ensure that volunteers are well informed with respect to the spirit of the Service and to its mission in the Church, so that they can find inspiration in it and orient their own missions accordingly.



Training through Experience

The training approach is based on andragogy, (adult education), which draws on the participants' own knowledge and experience. It includes expressing and sharing one's personal reactions, experiences and questionings. This process is also sustained through discussion groups and handouts of reference materials that many enjoy re-reading later on throughout their own experiences of accompaniment in the field.

Where? When? How?

The team of coordinators organizes initial training sessions based on the number of candidates interested and on the needs of the different sectors. Sessions take place in various locations within the Montreal diocese according to need and are generally offered in French, English and sometimes in Spanish or Italian.

The busiest periods for training are in the fall and spring, according to the needs and the availability of the candidates. If you wish to attend the 20-hour initial training session to become a SASMAD/PHC volunteer, please contact the office at 514 272-4441 or send an email to sasmad@diocesemontreal.org