



SIENNA LITERACY CENTER OUTREACH FAQ--INTERNAL

WHAT DO TUTORS DO?

Sienna Literacy Center tutors work one-to-one with adult learners to help them achieve their goals in reading, math, or English as a second language. Tutoring can happen onsite at our location, or remotely via video chat. Tutors choose the subject area they are interested in teaching and times they are available to help. Sienna provides all training, and no prior teaching experience is required.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR TUTORS?

We tell tutors to allow about 3 hours/week for tutoring—a 2-hour meeting, and an hour for lesson-planning, follow-up, etc., that can be done throughout the week. If tutors are unable to commit for at least a year, they should let us know so that we can take this into consideration when matching them with a student.

Tutors must have a high school diploma or equivalency and be over the age of 18. If someone is interested in being a tutor and does not meet these requirements, please contact Sienna Literacy Center to find out other ways they can be involved as a volunteer.

WHAT IS THE TIMELINE LIKE FOR BECOMING A VOLUNTEER?

Tutors attend a one-hour onsite orientation. If they like everything they hear, they sign up for a training workshop before leaving the orientation. This happens individually or in a very small group and takes approximately 90 minutes-2 hours.

After training, reading and ESL tutors can typically be matched within a week. Since we have fewer math students, math-only tutors might wait longer to be matched.

WHAT TRAINING DO TUTORS RECEIVE?

After orientation, tutors receive an initial training individually or in a very small group. This takes about 90 minutes-2 hours. After they have been matched with a student, tutors also receive approximately one hour of specific training at their first meeting, which covers their student's needs and curriculum.

After three meetings with their students, tutors will have an informal check-in with staff. Optional workshops are held throughout the year, and tutors are also able to schedule meetings or observations with staff as needed for support.

WHAT ARE THE STUDENTS LIKE?

Students come to us from many different ages and backgrounds and have many different goals. We encourage tutors to get to know their students well and remain in communication about what they hope to get out of the program.

READING: Our reading students come to us from all levels. Some students begin with letter sounds, while others are working on higher-level skills like comprehension, writing, or GED prep. Many if not most of our reading students have been diagnosed or suspected of learning disabilities.

MATH: Most of our math students have a specific math goal they are trying to attain—pass a college course, work exam, GED, etc. Math students typically need help at the middle- or high-school level (although there are always exceptions).

ESL: The majority of our English language learners are French speakers from West Africa, primarily Senegal, although we do get other students from all over the world. English language learners come from a wide variety of educational backgrounds. Tutors do NOT need to speak a foreign language to tutor ESL.