

English Literacy Tutor

Somali Adult Literacy Training (SALT)



Our Somali neighbors are learning English and how to adjust to life in Minnesota after escaping the violence of civil war and the extreme hardship of refugee camps. Join us in welcoming and loving our new neighbors. Would you volunteer to meet with a Somali man or woman once a week to build a friendship as you help them learn English and learn how to read?

“I’ve heard English learners say that they enrolled (in SALT) because they wanted to make changes in their lives. Those changes may have been for themselves or their families. Sometimes they needed to make those changes to overcome the impact of violence or trauma, or to more fully participate in the larger Twin Cities community – their new home.”

Job Description

Purpose of position: 1) To build friendship and trust while helping students learn to communicate in English 2) Possibly to help a student learn to read and write for the first time in their lives.

Expectations

- Pray for students
- Interview students using the “Interest Inventory” to find out student needs and desires for learning – students will be more motivated if they believe the teacher knows them and wants to help her achieve her goals
- Spend half of tutoring time teaching from the provided curriculum and spend the other half on interest-oriented activities and friendship.
- Keep records of student’s progress in her file folder
- Celebrate success with students by helping to prepare an end-of-semester pot luck where they receive a certificate of hours attended.
- Help refer students to other resources as needs arise
- Report directly to the coordinator. Notify coordinator if problems arise.

Qualifications: The volunteer's attitude and character are more important than any teaching skills they may have.

Volunteer tutors should enjoy: Working with people, reading and writing, helping others discover the joy of learning, getting to know your student as an individual, as well as learning about Somali language and culture.

Volunteer tutors should be: Friendly and encouraging, motivated by compassion, patient and flexible, humble, willing to learn about students' background, culture, joys and struggles, respectful of confidentiality, dependable and prompt.

Training: Tutors will participate in pre-service and in-service training. The success of our program depends on our tutors. We want to invest heavily in training. Each tutor should attend:

- introductory orientation session,
- 12 hour ESL training workshop offered for \$20 by the MN Literacy Council www.theMLC.org Follow the link to *volunteers* and then *training*,
- periodic in-service workshops relating to teaching English to Somalis, and
- on-the-job coaching from lead teachers, coordinator, and SALT staff.

For those aspiring to be lead teachers, we will offer the opportunity to first observe a class, second assist in teaching, and third student teach under a lead teacher's supervision.

Time commitment: Once trained, the tutor should be able to commit to at least two seven-week sessions for a minimum of two hours per week. The first hour is used for preparation; the second hour consists of tutoring.

How do I become a SALT Tutor for a refugee?

1. To apply, please complete the volunteer application and background check form. Both can be found at the WRM website: <http://www.worldreliefmn.org>.
2. Meet with a SALT Site Coordinator.
3. Attend a SALT volunteer orientation.
4. Get started! Report to SALT Site Coordinator for the duration of your commitment.

Contact: For more information, please contact Mike Neterer, SALT Director, at 612-870-7258, or email us at salt@wr.org.