

Volunteer Information

Thank you for your interest in becoming a volunteer tutor with the Partners program.

Partners is free and confidential and offers one-to-one reading, writing and math tutoring for English-speaking adults. Once matched, learner and tutor work together to develop a learning plan based on the learner's needs and interests.

Tutoring happens in a public space such as a library. During COVID-19, tutoring has been offered remotely. Tutors and learners connect using the platform of their choice (eg., Zoom, email, phone, WhatsApp, Skype, FaceTime etc.).

We hope to transition to in-person or a mix of remote and in-person tutoring. Given the uncertainties of COVID-19, volunteers will have to be flexible and open to change. At all times, volunteer and learner safety will come first.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- fluent in English with excellent oral and written skills
- at least high school graduation or equivalent
- be comfortable with reading, writing, and numeracy to feel able to tutor
- 21 years of age
- complete a criminal record check
- comfortable with technology
- comfortable with tutoring online, if needed
- willing to adapt and learn new processes or technologies, as needed

SOME QUALITIES OF SUCCESSFUL TUTORS

- Patience
- Positive attitude
- Adaptable/flexible
- Sense of humour
- Able to relate with diverse groups of people
- Able to build and sustain rapport with people
- Non-judgemental
- Willing to say "I don't know"
- Able to set boundaries
- Willing to be the guide on the side not the sage on the stage

BENEFITS OF TUTORING

- It's rewarding!
- Make a difference in someone's life.
- Learn new skills.
- Experience teamwork.
- Meet and share ideas with other tutors.
- Give back to the community.
- Gain experience and community hours.

COMMITMENT TO THE PROGRAM

If you decide to participate in this program, you are making a commitment to a learner who has likely experienced a less than stellar school experience and he/she is counting on you. This is a huge responsibility and something to consider very seriously.

Once accepted to the Partners program, we ask you to:

- Complete the 15 hour training.
- Meet with the learner for approximately 1-2 hours per week (depends on learner and tutor and what works for both).
- Spend approximately one hour per week planning your tutoring session.
- Commit to the program for 6 months.
- Attend regular in-service meetings/workshops.
- Be willing to travel within Surrey/White Rock to meet learner
- Communicate regularly with the Coordinator on learner progress, resources needed, and any concerns/questions you have.

Note: We try to match tutor and learners taking into consideration backgrounds, hobbies, work experience, interests, schedules, and personality traits. We cannot guarantee that you will be matched with a learner. We hope you will find the training interesting and that you will benefit from it.

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Submit an application form to the Coordinator.
2. Submit a resume to the Coordinator.
3. Complete an English assessment.
4. Have an interview with the Coordinator.
5. Submit 2 references.
6. Complete a vulnerable sector criminal record check.

TRAINING SCHEDULE

- Training is mandatory.
- Training is usually held in the fall of each year
- Training is 15 hours (five 3-hour sessions or similar combination).

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

We value our tutors and commit to supporting you in this program. Here is what you can expect from the coordinator/trainer.

1. 15 hours of quality training.
2. Help in identifying learner's learning style and short term goals.
3. Guidance and support in lesson planning, learning materials, tutoring.
4. Training and learning opportunities.
5. Help in finding a safe and secure place to work with a learner.
6. Helping tutors feel part of a team.
7. Positive and constructive feedback.
8. Flexibility i.e. holidays.
9. Recognition from READ Surrey/White Rock Society.

If you have any questions, please contact our Coordinator at adulit@readsurreywhiterock.com or 778.919.READ (7323). Our responsibility is to answer your questions and provide you with the support you need.