



## **Tutor Volunteers FAQs**

### **Is there a need for volunteer tutors?**

Yes. There is a need for tutors to work with adult learners to help them improve their reading, writing, math, and/or English language skills. According to the US Census 2000, in Lewis & Clark County there are over 4000 persons over the age of 18 without a High School Diploma or GED. There are also approximately 200 Adults who speak English less than well or not at all. Some Tutors will help students prepare for the Alternative High School Diploma or General Educational Development (GED) examination. The Lewis & Clark Literacy Council utilizes tutors in a one-to-one setting or in small groups.

### **How do I learn to tutor?**

Volunteers attend tutor-training workshops. These workshops, which are approximately 15 hours long, introduce you to the techniques used in tutoring an adult and will cover a range of topics: language acquisition, tutor/learner collaborative process, goal setting, discovering student's level, techniques for developing listening/speaking skills, use of dialogues, 3 views of Reading, Language experience approach, sight words, phonics, word patterns, reading comprehension, developing writing skills, assessments, lesson planning, tutor responsibilities.

### **What are the qualifications to be a tutor?**

Tutors should complete a Tutor Training and be a high school graduate or have a GED. A compassionate attitude and sense of humor help as well.

### **Do I need to speak another language to teach English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)?**

No. The training workshops prepare you to work with a student with whom you do not share a common language.

### **How much time does it take to tutor?**

The Lewis & Clark Literacy Council requests that volunteers give 1-3 hours per week for a minimum of 2+ months.

### **How is tutoring organized and set-up?**

The program director will ask you about the type of student you would like to work with, and the times that you are available. With this information he or she will arrange for you to meet with an adult learner.

### **Where does tutoring take place?**

The location for the tutoring can be just about any public location including a community college, local library, business, or community center. The Lewis & Clark Literacy Council does not support in-home tutoring.

**How old are the students?**

Students are usually adults ages 18 and over. Occasionally, we match a volunteer tutor with a younger student. In this case, the tutor will be finger printed and have a complete back ground check.

**What if I need to travel or miss some tutoring sessions?**

The Lewis & Clark Literacy Council understands that you will have scheduling conflicts. They just ask that you notify your student and the program director in advance.

**Does the Lewis & Clark Literacy program have other volunteer opportunities in addition to tutoring?**

Yes. The L&CLC has a number of volunteer needs which may include providing administrative support, fundraising, community outreach and serving on a board of directors.

**How can I become a volunteer tutor?**

Call the Lewis & Clark Literacy Council (406) 324-2111 or download our **Tutor Application** form and mail it to us. You will be informed of the next upcoming Training Session.