

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Experience Corps (EC) tutoring like? EC VOLUNTEERS:

- Help children in Kindergarten through grade 3 to improve their reading fluency – to read like they talk.
- Tutor in 1 participating school **or** 1 afterschool program twice a week for an average of 5-6 hours, following a tutoring schedule that matches volunteer availability and site needs.
- Tutor the same individual assigned students twice weekly for 30-minute session (average total: 4-6 students).
- Follow a structured tutoring session to improve students' reading fluency and comprehension using books and tutoring materials provided by Experience Corps.
- Encourage a love of reading by spending a few minutes each session reading a fiction book to the student(s).
- Foster mentoring relationships through tutoring that encourage learning and confidence.

What makes Experience Corps (EC) unique?

- Most importantly, all our tutors are age 50 or more, so they bring a wealth of experiences and skills, and serve as role models and mentors.
- EC Greater New Haven is a program of the Agency on Aging of South Central CT and one of 22 AARP Foundation Experience Corps programs - an award-winning, evidence-based, inter-generational literacy tutoring model.
- EC volunteers tutor in schools *and* in after-school programs.
- EC uses a proven tutoring structure to improve students' reading fluency (pre-fluency) & comprehension.
- EC volunteers receive extensive training before tutoring begins and support throughout volunteering to assure impactful tutoring and an enriching volunteer experience.
- EC measures its effectiveness using teacher and volunteer feedback and student literacy achievement data.

Must I have experience teaching or working with children? No. You *do* need good reading skills, a love of reading, to enjoy being with young children, patience, flexibility, an open mind, creativity and dedication. Those who do have teaching experience will find that EC is a great (and less stressful) way to continue to help children learn.

What is the actual time commitment?

- Training: Tutor training held twice weekly during October (20+ hours). Mini-conferences are held in December and March (3 hours each.)
- Tutoring: EC volunteers tutor 2 times a week from late October to early June for an average total of 5-6 hours; actual weekly hours will vary due to half days, snow days, holidays, school vacations, etc.
- Supervision: Volunteers attend a monthly 1-hour group supervision (Tutor Team) meeting facilitated by EC staff.
- Appreciation: Two annual volunteer appreciation events – a January luncheon and a June reception.

How do I join? Attend a summer information meeting. Complete an application form and bring it to your interview. Your references are called. You are fingerprinted and a criminal history check is done*. You are notified of the results.

Why should I do this? You are needed! You will help children learn to read and, therefore, succeed. You will learn new things. You will get to know other wonderful, caring older adults. You will make a difference. You will demonstrate the value of older adults. It will be part of your legacy. You will stay mentally & physically active. *You will have fun!*

I have questions. Call Sheila at 203-752-3059 x 2900 or email volunteer@aoascc.org

Participation in Experience Corps will not be denied to a qualified individual based on creed, color, national origin, age, sexual orientation or disability. Individuals with disabilities who need accommodations may arrangements with Experience Corps. **Due to recurring access to a vulnerable population (children), all applicants must pass a name check on the National Sex Offender Website and FBI and CT State Police background checks.*