

What is Experience Corps (EC) tutoring like?

- EC volunteers (all age 50+) tutor children in Kindergarten through grade 3 who are below grade level in reading.
- EC volunteers are assigned to 1 participating school **or** 1 afterschool program twice a week for an average of 6 hours, following a tutoring schedule that matches volunteer availability and site needs.
- EC volunteers tutor individual or in small groups of students, using materials provided by the classroom teacher, EC staff or afterschool staff.
- In some schools and in all afterschool sites, EC volunteers tutor the same students each week while, in other schools, EC volunteers tutor a variety of students each week in assigned classrooms.
- EC volunteers foster mentoring relationships with their students 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 an affiliate of AARP Foundation Experience Corps, an award-winning, research-based literacy tutoring model in 22 cities, and a program of the Agency on Aging of South Central CT.
- 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 scores.
- EC volunteers tutor in schools *and* in after-school programs.

Must I have experience teaching or working with children? No. You *do* need good literacy 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 impact children.

What is the actual time commitment?

- Training: Volunteers attend new tutor training & orientation in October (15+ hours) and 2 mini-conferences, one in November and one in March (3 hours each.)
- Tutoring: EC volunteers tutor 2+ times a week for an average of 6 hours, from October to June. The actual weekly hours may vary due to half days, snow days, holidays, school vacations, etc.
- Supervision: Volunteers attend a 1-hour monthly group supervision meeting facilitated by EC staff.
- Appreciation: Two annual volunteer appreciation events – a January luncheon and a June reception.

How do I join? Complete an application form and bring it to your interview. EC staff will call your references and notify you of the results. You are fingerprinted and EC conducts a CT state background check and review of the Sex Offender Website.

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.

