

Who will my learner be?

Adult learners seek tutoring to achieve practical goals. Without the ability to read or comprehend text well, many learners can feel shame or embarrassment.

Learners may want to learn to read to their children, improve their job opportunities, get a driver's license, or take the GED or U.S. citizenship tests.

Learners are adults ages 16 and older. Many have fewer than ten years of schooling and experienced limited success in the classroom. Some are English language learners but lack basic literacy skills in any language. Many lack confidence when reading or writing and depend on other types of skills to be successful. Some learners have learning or developmental differences, and some do not.

Adult Literacy Program learners are motivated and make great progress because of their tutors. More advanced learners may make rapid progress and move on to new learning opportunities once they gain self-confidence in their ability to read and learn. Others need considerable help with the basics and progress more slowly.

What will I give and get?

Volunteer several hours each week

Tutors make a six-month commitment to the Adult Literacy Program. Schedules vary, but the typical tutor-learner pair meets once a week for one or two hours. Some pairs work together for years. Please ask for information on short-term volunteer opportunities if you know the six-month commitment will not work for you.

Have fun and learn new things

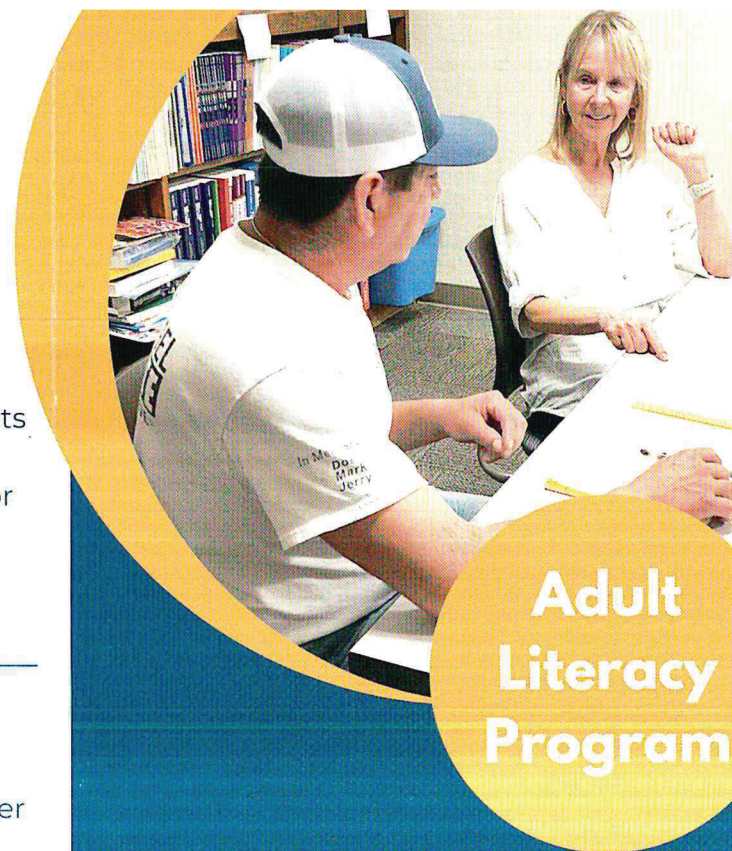
In this impactful role, you can improve the quality of life in your community one learner at a time. You will also develop your own teaching skills to help adults.

Use your life experience and materials provided by the library

Patience, persistence, and flexibility are the most useful qualities for tutors to possess when helping learners set and meet personal goals. Prior teaching experience is not necessary.

Break the cycle of intergenerational illiteracy

Tutoring parents helps them become active learners and improves the chances of their children's success in school.



Adult
Literacy
Program

Interested in
Becoming an
Adult Literacy Tutor?



This program is made possible
with support from the
California State Library and the
Santa Barbara Adult Education Consortium

6 Steps to Volunteering as an Adult Literacy Tutor

Step 1 Register

To register, contact the Adult Literacy Program at 805-564-5619 or email us at Literacy@SantaBarbaraCA.gov

New volunteers should be:

- at least 18 years old
- able to read well in English
- able to commit two to four hours per week to the program

*Also, Spanish speaking tutors can help Spanish speaking learners improve their Spanish literacy.

Step 2 Train

Attend orientation and workshop-style training in tutoring techniques. Learn how to help other adults build reading skills, increase comprehension, improve spelling, and develop other skills.

Step 3 Be Matched with a Learner

Tutors and learners are matched by location, schedule, personal interests, and tutor's preference for learner level and learner goals.

Step 4 Meet Regularly

Tutors meet once or twice a week with learners at the library or other public location convenient to both parties. Lesson duration varies from one to two hours.

All books and materials are provided by the Santa Barbara Public Library.

Step 5 Attend Tutor Meetings

The Adult Literacy Program offers in-service workshops throughout the year. Come learn new techniques, view materials, and share challenges and successes.

Step 6 Report Hours and Progress

Tutors and learners discuss learning goals and tutors track learner progress. Tutors report volunteer hours and learner progress each quarter electronically.

Tutors stay in contact with the program coordinator by phone, email, or in person to report any changes to meeting schedules, attendance, or if problems arise.



Want more information?
Please contact us at:

**Santa Barbara
Public Library**

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Literacy@SantaBarbaraCA.gov