

Would you consider helping a child in a way that makes both of you smile?

Omosaze, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that helps first, second, and third grade students read better through a program called *Reading Saturday*. *Reading Saturday* provides curriculum-based reading instruction to early elementary students in supportive environment that reinforces positive attitudes about learning. In 2007-2008, we will work with more than 100 students from schools located throughout Cobb County. We partner with schools that have a high number of low-income students.



Volunteers are a critical part of the Reading Saturday experience.

As a Reading Friend, you will help one or more first grade students discover the joy and love of reading while you build their self-confidence and watch them begin to flourish in both academic and social settings.

Volunteers attend for 1.5 hours each Saturday, following a simple lesson plan to teach vocabulary and comprehension skills to their assigned student(s). After the volunteers depart, the students continue with two sessions of small-group instruction with certified teachers.

Requirements

Volunteers are asked to commit to a series of at least 9 sessions over 3 months to foster consistency and relationship building with the students. Shorter commitments can be arranged for organizations and other groups. No special skills or knowledge are required.

- 🕒 Complete a brief application
- 🕒 Permit Omosaze to do a criminal background check
- 🕒 Participate in a 1 1/2 hour orientation
- 🕒 Maintain an excellent attendance and on-time record
- 🕒 Enjoy working with children

Schedule

Reading Saturday operates during the school year, normally on the first three Saturdays of months October-May.



Please mail all letters and applications to:
Leon Scott, Executive Director at the address listed below,
or fax your application to: 770-739-1658.

More information on volunteering is available at www.omosaze.org/volunteer.htm.



Omosaze Frequently Asked Questions

Where is the Reading Saturday program located?

Reading Saturday will take place at selected elementary schools in Cobb County.

Do I need to be trained?

Yes, volunteers attend a 1 ½-hour orientation.

Is there a minimum length of time a volunteer should serve?

Yes, we ask for a minimum commitment of 3 months. Most volunteers choose to stay longer. Shorter commitments can be arranged for organizations who volunteer as a group.

Do I need to come every Saturday?

Yes. Reading Saturday normally operates from October through May on 3 Saturdays out of the 4 or 5 Saturdays in a month. Volunteers should attend on every scheduled Saturday and notify program staff of any absences as far in advance as possible.

Do I work with the same student(s) the entire time?

Yes, for the most part. The relationship that a student has with the volunteer is critical to building self-esteem and confidence. For this reason, we work to maintain mentor-student match-ups. However, enrollment changes and absences will sometimes lead to changes in the pairings.

How old must I be to participate?

The minimum age is 15.

Do I need to be a good reader to participate?

Yes. The highest level of reading material typically used with a student will be at a third grade level. However, at a minimum you should read at a 10th grade level to provide effective correction and instruction.



Thank you for offering to volunteer with Omosaze, Inc. With your assistance, we can ensure that every first grade student is offered one-on-one support at *Reading Saturday*.

Personal Information

Prefix: Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss Suffix: Jr. Sr. Other: _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Work Phone: _____ Mobile Phone: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Birthdate: _____ Have you ever been convicted of a crime? _____

How did you hear about Reading Saturday? _____

Volunteer Information

I am volunteering as an individual, with a minimum commitment of 9 Saturdays

I am volunteering as part of a group.

Group Name: _____

Group Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Education & Experience

What is the highest level of education you have completed?

Junior High High School College Advanced Degree

If you are a current student, what school do you currently attend? _____

Have you ever mentored students in reading? If so, when? _____

Please rate your skill level in reading on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the best

1 2 3 4 5

Please rate your skill level in spelling on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the best

1 2 3 4 5

Please list any language(s) that you speak besides English: _____

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

