

Q: What is America/Northfield Reads and Counts?

A: Northfield Reads and Counts (NRC) is a local implementation of the national America Reads and Counts initiative that brings in community members to help children develop critical reading and mathematics skills. NRC pays Carleton and St. Olaf students to share their expertise, energy and resources with Northfield Public School students who need extra support and assistance in the classroom. The program functions through the community-based work study program in Carleton's Center for Community and Civic Engagement (CCCE).

Q: How many schools are there in Northfield, and how far away are they?

A: We partner with 5 local schools - three elementary schools, one middle school, and one charter school. Some students also choose to work with freshmen at Northfield High School. All of the schools are within a few miles of campus (a 30 minute walk/5 minute drive).

Q: What grade levels/subjects will I be working with?

A: Most tutors work with students in grades kindergarten through 8th grade, but some can also work with 9th graders. However, the classes, teachers, and schools you work with are totally up to you. You also get to pick the subject; each posting comes with a class description, so if you don't want to tutor 8th grade math you do NOT need to!

Q: What kind of schedule will I have? Does this affect the classes I can take?

A: At the start of the term, once you have your classes sorted out, you will have to commit to a weekly tutoring schedule at one or more of the Northfield Public Schools. Northfield teachers will post a long list of shifts online showing when they need help. You get to pick your hours from that list, meaning you can pick your own schedule - that way, students with classes in the mornings can choose afternoon shifts and students with their afternoons free can tutor in the mornings. You can work in classrooms with individuals or with small groups, in study halls, or in after-school programs providing one-on-one homework help. It's completely up to you - you just have to inform your supervisor of your schedule and show up!

Q: How do I get off-campus? Do I have to pay for transportation?

A: There are several ways to get to work. Most of the schools are actually within 1-2 miles of campus, so walking/biking are great options, especially during fall and spring. Some students with personal cars are also encouraged to carpool. There are also two forms of public transportation - Hiawathaland Bus and First Choice Shuttle. You can fill out a form online and receive free vouchers, courtesy of the CCCE. If you're worried about travel time, don't be -- you get paid ½ hour for travel on either side of your shift. For example, say I only work three days a week for an hour and a half - that's 4.5 hours of tutoring, but I'm still getting paid for 7.5 hours. We'll explain more at training. NOTE: The whole process is super easy, but you will be responsible for coordinating your own transportation and cancelling rides if you can't make them.

Q: But I've never tutored before!

A: That's not a question, but don't sweat it! All it takes is patience and a basic knowledge of reading and math skills (and considering you got into Carleton, I wouldn't be too worried). Plus, you will receive paid trainings every term to go over the basics - including before you start to tutor. The first training will be held during NSW on **September 12, from 3-4pm** (location TBD). After a few days, you'll fall into a routine and get to know the great kids. One of the best things about the job is building relationships with your teachers, so if you have any concerns you can (and should!) check in with them regularly. If you have any actually serious concerns or issues, please talk to talk to your supervisor Julie or lead tutor Hannah.

Q: Is there anything I need to prepare before I get to campus?

A: Nope! Just be sure to fill out your work study forms when you get to campus. You'll receive a handbook, tips, and participate in a paid training session during NSW (see above). You also have to pass a background check. At the start of fall term you'll pick your hours. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Julie Bubser (jbubser@carleton.edu) or Hannah Nayowith (nayowithh@carleton.edu).