

## Reading Saturday Program Overview

*"I like watching students blossom from shy, inhibited readers to outgoing, fantastic readers."*

*~Amy Buddie, Reading Saturday Volunteer for 5+ years*



Omosaze, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that helps first through fifth grade students read better through a program called *Reading Saturday*. *Reading Saturday* provides curriculum-based reading instruction to elementary students in a supportive environment that reinforces positive attitudes about learning. 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
- 🕒 Attend a short 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 September to March.



### **Please mail all letters and applications to:**

Zana Thompson, Volunteer Coordinator, at the address listed below,  
fax your application to: 404-602-0186, or email it to [volunteer@omosaze.org](mailto:volunteer@omosaze.org)



## 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 September through March 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. Adults must be a high school graduate or have a G.E.D. Current high school students must have a 'B' average and obtain a letter of recommendation from a teacher.





## High School Volunteer Application

Note: Volunteers will have to submit to a criminal history check before participating in any Omosaze programs

### Personal Information

Prefix:  Mr.  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? \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer: (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

### 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 school do you currently attend? \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

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

How would you describe your skill level in reading? \_\_\_\_\_

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

On a separate piece of paper, please describe a book you have read that has made a measurable difference in your life and why.

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

