

DCTMI CANVASSING VOLUNTEER TIP SHEET

You will need:

- Flyers (Dropbox and Website)
- Clip Boards
- DCTMI button
- Sign-up Sheets
- Pen

When Canvassing...

- Hold the flyer out in front of you so that passersby can look at it when you approach them!
- Speak clearly and confidently! Ask for a second of their time to learn about VOLUNTEERING as a tutor or mentor. Stress the volunteering so they don't think you are trying to sell them something. Your confidence and enthusiasm will be contagious.
- Smile, make eye contact, and be patient! Some people will ignore you. That is typical. You may have to approach them, but be friendly and mindful of personal space. I have started walking alongside people so I have time to explain what we are trying to do, get their reaction, and have a meaningful conversation.
- Remember that what you are doing is worthwhile. As people learn more about the initiative and see you at events, they may be more open.
- Hand out those flyers! Some may want to read and digest the goal of the project before coming back to sign up on the sheets.



What you can say....

DC
Tutoring & Mentoring
INITIATIVE

Half of DC students – 40,000 kids – are reading below grade level. More have non-academic needs. A mentor or tutor can make all the difference.

We are all “too busy!” Find a couple of hours a week to help the 90 DC tutoring & mentoring organizations & DC & charter schools close the gap. Volunteer, contribute, or help us organize. Transform the future for a kid, our community, & our world!

<http://dcTutorMentor.org> or info@dcTutorMentor.org

We must work passionately and indefatigably to bridge the gulf between our scientific progress and our moral progress.

– Martin Luther King, Jr.



Act natural! Channel your interest in the project and relay that to the person you are talking to. But if you're stuck, you can use a short statement. Here's where I start:

- ✓ **We are looking for VOLUNTEER mentors and tutors to work with kids around the city.** Can I give you this?
- ✓ We work with 35 partner organizations around the city. Any day of the week, time of day, or neighborhood, there's a tutoring or mentoring program that needs help.
- ✓ **We have a larger vision:** We believe the time is now to create a public campaign or social movement that can transform education in DC and in other cities. Nothing in the past 50 years

has had more than modest results. But if we can get even 1 in 10 adults involved, it could transform education and create a community that feels safer, kinder, and just plain better for all. Bobby Kennedy (on MLK's death), said: "What we need in the United States is not division and hatred... but love and wisdom and compassion for one another and a sense of justice..." I believe we can still get there if we work smartly and together.

- ✓ It's a great OPPORTUNITY to make a real difference in someone's life.
- ✓ Partners include organizations like **Reading Partners** that tutor elementary school age kids during the day, to **Higher Achievement** that works with middle schoolers, to **College Bound**, which focuses on college preparation for older kids; to **Best Kids** which connects mentors to kids in the foster care system.
- ✓ We are ALL busy! **But only two hours a week can make a world of difference.** If you are too busy or you have too much travel or uncertainty in your schedule to commit to help a couple of hours a week, we need help with canvassing. There are also some programs that need substitute tutors and other types of volunteer help.
- ✓ **More than two-thirds of children in DC are reading below grade level according to the latest tests.** (The assessment test changed two years ago. The old test had "only" half of students reading below grade level.)
- ✓ Interested in education equality? Volunteer today!
- ✓ Thanks for taking this. I hope you'll take a look at our list of partners on our website. You can sign up there. (or simply: "**You can sign up at our website.**")
- ✓ Can we add you to our mailing list? Even if don't have time now, we can keep you in the loop, and you may have more time later.

If they are signing up...

Explain that the greatest needs are east of the river in Anacostia. Would they feel comfortable and do they have the time to get over there?

Looking for a place to canvass?

Farmers markets, metro stations, outdoor movies, and public events are all great places to canvass. Check out our list of farmers markets and outdoor movies on our webpage.

Got a question or have an emergency?

Please don't hesitate to call, text, or (if not urgent) email:

Tom Pollak -- tom@dcTutorMentor.org ---- 202-839-4930 or 301-325-3141

or

Joe Warburton -- volunteer1@dcTutorMentor.org --- 202-688-1261