# **Minnesota State Services for the Blind**

# **Work-Based Learning Opportunity**

# **Job title: Peer Ambassador**

Minnesota State Services for the Blind (SSB) is seeking students to join our enthusiastic and dynamic team of staff in providing Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) programming. This is a work-based learning experience for students aged 14-21 who are enrolled in an educational program.

**Overview:** Peer Ambassadors will play a crucial role in creating an inclusive and supportive environment for students with vision loss in Minnesota. This role involves working with fellow students and SSB staff to foster connection, increase awareness, and improve the overall experience of blind, low vision, and DeafBlind students. Peer Ambassadors will assist students by developing programs and activities that address important transition needs. They will lead regular sessions and organize events aimed at building community and providing meaningful peer-to-peer engagement opportunities across the state.

## Core Responsibilities

### Mentoring/Instruction:

* Apply knowledge of program content, practices, and blindness skills while providing instruction and modeling to students.
* Apply blindness and problem-solving skills as related to independent living and academic success.
* Initiate outreach for student engagement.
* Help others increase their confidence and communication skills.
* Facilitate and lead group or individual instruction to teach advocacy and problem-solving skills.
* Facilitate networking opportunities and social events to foster a sense of community.

###  Communication:

* Report to the supervisor regarding patterns and trends throughout the work experience.
* Communicate findings and recommendations both orally and in written format as they relate to students’ goals.
* Demonstrate strong oral and written communication skills and experience with using the Zoom platform.
* Collaborate with another peer ambassador to effectively serve students.

###  Skills and Abilities Needed to Perform the Work Successfully:

* Knowledge of blindness skills used in academic, social, and employment settings.
* Knowledge of acceptable behavior as it relates to students.
* Ability to secure the confidence, respect, and cooperation of students.
* Ability to perceive, observe, and address problems as they arise.
* Ability to guide students as needed to access and participate in activities.
* Display a high level of initiative and leadership.
* Demonstrate self-motivation, maturity, and creativity.

### Collaboration With SSB Staff:

* Collaborate with SSB program staff to enhance services and address student needs.
* Provide feedback on the effectiveness of SSB programs and suggest improvements.
* Assist in organizing events that bring together students, parents, and other stakeholders.

### Education and Experience

* High school or college students (ages 14-21). Preference for those who have previously participated in programs through SSB.
* Familiarity with SSB services and programs.
* Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
* Sensitivity to the diverse needs of students accessing SSB services.
* Commitment to promoting a supportive and inclusive environment for students with disabilities.

### Additional Information:

All applications are due to Shane DeSantis no later than October 1st, 2025. The anticipated start date is November 1st, 2025. Hours depend on student programming and will fall around student availability. Therefore, flexible availability is required. Email Shane.desantis@state.mn.us with any questions.

* Salary: $15.50/hr
* Hours: Flexible and based upon program needs. Anticipated ten hours a month
* Delivery: This role will be delivered through both virtual and in-person duties

## Application Details:

Our Work Opportunities Navigators, Tou Yang and Randi Lasher, are available to help you fill out the application and practice interviewing if this would be helpful for you. Contact Tou at Tou.yang@state.mn.us or Randi at Randi.lasher@state.mn.us if you would like to take advantage of their time to prepare for your interview.

Because of the funding for this position, both of the following must be true for you to be eligible:

* You must be between 14 and 21 years old.
* You must be in an education program like high school, an 18-21 transition program, or a college/technical education program.

## Application:

**Work-Based Learning Application**

**Minnesota State Services for the Blind**

Please complete and send this to shane.desantis@state.mn.us by October 1st, 2025. If you have a resume, please include it when sending your application.

Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Birthdate:

School attending fall of 2025:

SSB Counselor:

List work or volunteer experience:

List skills that you would bring to this position:

Describe why you would be a good choice for this position in a paragraph or two: