

## Vision

All students at VOA SALT are working to build their capacity as future leaders in their communities through practical application of academic coursework, collaborative service-learning projects, meaningful community engagement activities, and character building programs designed to instill a sense of adventure and courage necessary to make contributions toward a more sustainable world.



## Program Highlights

- Small school environment
- Small class sizes
- High level of student diversity
- Hands-on, experiential learning
- Environmental themes
- Community based service projects
- High adventure activities
- Leadership development
- Independent study options



**“Don’t ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive and then go with that. Because what the world needs is people that have come alive.”**

**–Harold Thurman Whitman**

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## Contact Information

### SALT High School

Volunteers of America–Minnesota Education Center  
924 Nineteenth Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55404

### Director/Intake Contact

Aaron Carper

ph. 612-375-0700

fx. 612-375-0800

### General Information

salt@voamn.org

www.voaec.org

**School Hours 8:00am–2:30pm**

### Transportation

is available through Metro Transit bus and light rail. The school is located adjacent to the Franklin Avenue Station transit hub.

Volunteers of America–Minnesota is a nonprofit organization founded in 1896 which offers a wide variety of services for more than 27,000 children, adolescents and their families, older adults, students, persons with disabilities and special needs, and ex-offenders each year. We are one of the oldest, largest and most comprehensive human service organizations in the state and have more than 60 programs, 700 employees and 4,000 volunteers. We have a rich history of developing innovative programs to meet emerging social issues and pride ourselves on sponsoring programs which are able to explicitly articulate the outcomes achieved in our program participants’ lives.

### Our Mission

The mission of Volunteers of America–Minnesota is to provide opportunities which will make a significant, lasting impact in the lives of our program participants, and to elicit community support for our program participants.

**Corporate Support Office | Volunteers of America–Minnesota  
7625 Metro Boulevard, Minneapolis, MN 55439  
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# SALT High School

Service Adventure Leadership Team



**We build young leaders who serve**

## Grades 10–12

- Small school environment
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- High level of student diversity
- Hands-on, experiential learning
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**Volunteers of America®**

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Making a Difference. Changing Lives.™

## Description

**Volunteers of America–Minnesota Service Adventure Leadership Team High School (VOA SALT) is a Minneapolis Public Schools specialty school, serving grades 10 through 12, which features an experiential and environmental themed program that focuses on leadership development and community-based service learning.**

## Programming Components

### Students

Students are typically those who:

- May benefit from hands-on, experiential learning
- Have a passion for outdoor adventure and environmental activities
- May have been unsuccessful in traditional classroom settings

### Curriculum/Courses

- Core courses include math, English, social studies and science
- Electives include environmental studies, visual arts, technology and holistic health education
- Field studies, labs, and experiential/service learning trips are incorporated into all classes
- Seniors complete a service-learning project, scientifically based environmental or community action/research project of their own design
- Independent Study Program offers flexible scheduling and one-on-one support for qualifying students



**Doing the hard work of learning new ways to relate to the world.**

## Program Strengths

**Leadership skills** are taught through involvement, planning and implementation of adventure and service expeditions while adhering to Leave No Trace principles

**Environmental field studies** take place at locations including the Superior Hiking Trail, Wolf Ridge, The International Wolf Center, Boundary Waters Canoe Area, YMCA Leadership Camps and many others, including out-of-state locations

**High adventure activities** include backpacking, rock climbing, canoeing, dog, sledding, running club, ultimate frisbee and urban orienteering adventures

**Technology** resources help bridge the “digital divide” and all classes feature state of the art computers and instruction

Integrated **visual arts program** includes intense exposure to photography and videography in community-based projects

**Parent/family involvement**, participation, tutoring and mentoring are encouraged

**Strong community involvement** including volunteer tutors and mentors from 3M, University of St. Catherine, Augsburg College and Concordia University

**Post-secondary planning** built into students’ weekly advisory and reinforced by college partnerships

**Restorative justice** techniques are implemented to minimize suspensions and instill the value of community within the student body, emphasize the value of relationships and responsibility to one another

## Special Features and Services

- Daily advisory periods offer students support on attendance and progress toward individual goals
- Special Education and ELL services are available
- Post-Secondary Education Options (PSEO) and other opportunities challenge gifted and talented students
- In-house social worker for one-on-one student support
- Volunteers of America–Minnesota services including in-house mental health services, family support and therapeutic support to foster homes
- Collaborative work with other organizations involved with student families

## Mission

**The mission of VOA SALT High School is to foster an intellectually, socially and physically challenging program in a learning environment designed to equip students with the skills, knowledge base and progressive attitudes necessary to make ongoing contributions in a changing world.**



**For more information contact us at:  
612-375-0700**