



## Survival Topic #1: Chicago City Tour

### Questions to Ask:

Did you live in a city or in a rural area?  
What are some differences between your new home and your old home? Some similarities?  
Do you know your way around yet?  
What places are you having trouble finding?  
Where do you go shopping?

### Topics to Share:

Talk about your own experiences living in a new place. Share information about your favorite bargain stores. Share information about where you like to go and what you like to do in your spare time.

### English Language Learner Tips:

Take a map and point out the places you will be visiting together. During the trip see if they can use the map to describe how to get to each destination. Afterwards look again and find the places you visited together on the map.

Use opportunities from the tour to encourage them in their English language skill building. If their English level is very low, work on identifying simple vocabulary about important locations (e.g. library, school, store).

Help them develop skills in giving and receiving directions. You can teach this in action by going out on the street and asking, "Where is the \_\_\_\_\_?" You can also practice with a simple map of their neighborhood.

Know that even if they are not yet able to speak English, your moral support in taking them to places nearby will still help them grow towards self-sufficiency and increase their self-confidence. Work on reading addresses as well as simple concepts like "right" and "left" and simple nouns like "house."

### Other Notes:

Taking your mentees on a tour of the local area can be a great activity for all of you. Even if the family has lived in the country for a while, they still may not know much about the area around their home. This is a great opportunity to expand their horizons, and yours as well. If the family has just arrived, you may want to do these tours a few times to ensure that they are familiar with the area. Each time you go, emphasize a different part of the neighborhood.

Refugee parents don't always know where to go for inexpensive entertainment for their children. They may not know where the nearest park or playground is, and you can show them where it is and how to get there from their home. Libraries are also great places for the whole family, since every family member can find English reading materials to help them learn. Help them each get library cards.

You could also visit the local post office, police station, fire station, and hospital. Second-hand stores and other discount stores are also helpful places to stop by. Many mentors have also gone with families to local farmers markets to ensure that the family can enjoy fresh produce.

Ask them what places they have heard about but haven't been able to see or find yet.

You might want to show them your own home, your school, where you work, or your place of worship so that they can get to know you better.

Ask for a tour of places that are familiar to them. Ask them to take you to their favorite grocery store, restaurant, or place of worship. You can learn a lot about their culture when you experience it with them.