



National Tax Training Committee

Self-Study Counselor Resources

Tax Year 2026

FOR USE BY AARP FOUNDATION TAX-AIDE VOLUNTEERS ONLY

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SELF-STUDY COUNSELOR RESOURCES

THE RESOURCES YOU WILL USE THE MOST ARE:

Tax-Aide's [NTTC 4491](#) Tax Training Guide contains tax law lessons that provide examples and exercises to address tax situations that apply specifically to Tax-Aide clients.

Tax-Aide's [NTTC 4012](#) Volunteer Resource Guide is the primary tax preparation reference resource for Tax-Aide Counselors when preparing tax returns in TaxSlayer and Practice Lab. It includes instructions and screenshots.

Tax-Aide's [Scope Manual](#) lists the IRS forms and schedules that Tax-Aide volunteers are trained and certified to prepare. The guidelines are defined by the IRS. The Tax-Aide scope has some differences from the VITA/TCE scope.

[TaxSlayer Practice Lab](#) is an online tax software training application. It mirrors TaxSlayer Pro Online which volunteers use for actual tax return preparation during the tax season. (Make a shortcut in your internet browser: vita.taxslayerpro.com/irstraining/.)

OTHER SOURCES YOU MAY FIND HELPFUL:

[Training Links for New Counselors](#)

Includes helpful training links specifically for new counselors:

- Volunteer Training and Resource Guides
- Practice Exercises
- Self-Study Program
- Training Videos
- IRS Certification Tests and TaxSlayer Practice Lab
- Other Tax-Aide Links

[NTTC Training Resource Links](#)

Includes links to:

- NTTC Useful Tax Prep Links (the above links document)
- Tax-Aide's NTTC 4491 Tax Training Guide
- NTTC Workbook and its Errata
- Self-Study Program
- Training Videos
- IRS Certification Tests and TaxSlayer Practice Lab

[NTTC Useful Tax Prep Links](#)

(a link to this is also included on the front page of the [NTTC 4012](#))

Includes links to:

- Tax-Aide: Training and Tax Law Library
- Tax-Aide's NTTC 4012 and Scope Manual
- Intake Booklet and Worksheets for Taxpayers to Complete

Return Preparation Resources, STAP, and Tax Law Papers
(including Qualifying Child or Relative Resource Tool)
Additional Helpful Websites; including Colorado Resource Toolbox

[Colorado Resource Toolbox \(cotaxaide.org/tools/\)](https://cotaxaide.org/tools/) contains useful tax preparation tools that are referred to throughout the Self-Study Program documents.

[IRS Link & Learn Taxes](#) e-Learning contains online tax lessons you might find useful throughout this self-study program. Skills Workout is a self-paced learning tool with questions for self-evaluation.

[IRS Link & Learn and VITA/TCE Central](#) is the IRS landing page that shows links to key training resources and more (set up a new account or sign in to your existing Link & Learn account):

- [Link & Learn Taxes](#): e-Learning (includes Skills Workout)
- [Taking the IRS Certification Tests Online](#)
- [Pub 4961](#): VITA/TCE Volunteer Standards of Conduct – Ethics Training
- [Pub 5101](#): Intake/Interview and Quality Review Training