

Nisookamig Ojibwe Language Paid Master Apprenticeship Cohort

March–October 2026 | Applications Due January 31, 2026

Program Overview

Nisookamig is launching its first **paid Ojibwe Language Master Apprenticeship Cohort**, a rigorous eight-month training experience designed to build advanced-level speaking skills among highly motivated adult learners. Apprentices will train directly with a lead instructor and assistant instructor, participate in structured immersion sessions, and develop the speaking patterns, storytelling skills, and discourse functions required to use Ojibwe fluently in community, work, and family settings.

This cohort focuses on **creating future speakers who can later become teachers, and community language leaders** across northern Minnesota.

Who Should Apply

This program is designed for individuals who:

- Have taken Ojibwe language classes, completed college courses in Ojibwe, currently work in an Ojibwe language capacity, or some equivalent area
- Are motivated to significantly advance their speaking fluency
- Are committed to intensive weekly speaking sessions and practice
- Live in **Red Lake, White Earth, Leech Lake**, or nearby surrounding communities (Nisookamig service area)

Eight (8) applicants will be selected for paid apprenticeships.

What Apprentices Receive

- **Paid stipend** for participation (10 hours/month)
- 1:1 and small-group mentorship from a lead instructor and assistant
- Intensive immersion sessions focusing on conversational mastery
- Formula-based speaking curriculum aligned with fluent-speaker patterns
- Access to digital tools, recordings of first-language speakers, and a structured pathway toward

advanced proficiency

- Support for using Ojibwe in home, community, and professional settings

Program Structure (March–October 2026)

The cohort follows a structured sequence of learning phases:

1. Foundations

- Baseline speaking assessments
- Core sentence formulas, verb patterns, and conversation routines
- Establishing Ojibwe learning norms

2. Immersion & Skill Building

- Weekly facilitated sessions
- Thematic contextualized monologue/dialogue work (family, work, land, storytelling, community routines)
- Guided listening to recordings/reading of first-language speakers content
- Individual feedback and speaking targets

3. Application & Growth

- Capstone small-group presentations conducted entirely in Ojibwe
- Final speaking assessments
- Personalized learning plan for continued growth
- Opportunities to transition into future teaching or facilitator roles

Commitment Expectations

- 8-month active participation (March–October 2026)
- 10 hours/month of cohort meetings, individual practice
- Consistent attendance at meetings and gatherings (mostly evenings/weekends virtually to fit working schedules)
- Desire to use Ojibwe daily and contribute to long-term language revitalization

How to Apply

Visit www.nisookamig.com to submit the application.
Applications are due **January 31, 2026**.
Selected applicants will be notified in February.

About Nisookamig

Nisookamig is an Ojibwe language revitalization nonprofit serving Red Lake, White Earth, Leech Lake, and surrounding communities. Our goal is to create fluent speakers, sustain intergenerational transmission, and build long-term systems for language growth across northern Minnesota.