IS READING CORPS RIGHT FOR YOU?

Santa Cruz Reading Corps • 2017-18

What We'll Ask of You

Commit to 9 months
After we hire and train a tutor for a school, we rely on that tutor for the whole school year – no substitutes or replacements. Our service term runs from September 1, 2017- May 31, 2018.

Serve 900 (part-time) hours

- Part-time tutors serve at least 32-35 hours per week for a minimum **total of 900 hours**. The majority of these hours are accrued during typical school-day hours.

Serve daily in a school setting
Tutors implement the Reading Corps model with fidelity, which includes meeting with their students every day of the school week during (and sometimes beyond) normal school hours. Your schedule must be consistent throughout the year so that the student tutoring schedule is consistent. Tutors also participate in after-school activities and some evening school functions to meet the minimum number of service hours.

Participate in professional training
Tutors accepted into the program attend all required training sessions. We explain below under "What You'll Gain" how our training model sets us apart, and why we aren't shy about making it a requirement. The initial training, includes attending Reading Corps Institute and AmeriCorps Orientation, which will be the first 2 weeks in September and cover everything you will need to know in order to get started at your school. Additional required and optional full-day trainings throughout the year will continue to build your skills.

Engage in your community
Reading Corps tutors spend their year viewing their community through the lens of service. They seize opportunities to be involved with community-based service activities, such as volunteering at a library and getting involved on the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. Occasional weekend or evening service may be necessary.

What You'll Gain

Training, coaching, and experience in research-based literacy strategies
Our training is one of many things that make our program powerful. Well-respected literacy experts train our tutors in proven, research-based literacy strategies. Each tutor is also assigned an Internal Coach at their school to provide ongoing and individual support. This tiered approach provides the content knowledge and tools tutors need to be effective and confident in their ability to help children grow their literacy skills.

Professional skill-building & networks
We invest so much in our tutors because they are each given real responsibility in their school. For those tutors who are pursuing or continuing a career in education, the hands-on experience and literacy training offer an invaluable stepping stone. Tutors work closely with on-site staff who can offer insight and a "foot in the door" in the field. For tutors not pursuing an education career, being part of Reading Corps provides transferrable professional experience and skills, while adding the impressive AmeriCorps name to their résumés.

SANTA CRUZ reading corps
An early learning initiative of First 5 Santa Cruz County

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Financial Benefits

Living allowance
Tutors receive a living allowance. Prior to taxes, the living allowance is approximately $1,160 per month ($580 to be paid twice per month). Applicants must take a careful look at their financial situation to determine if they can afford the commitment to serve with Reading Corps.

Education Award
Tutors who successfully complete their year of service will receive an education award of $ 2,882. The education award can be used to pay back federal student loans, the cost of tuition or other educational purposes. The award has a seven-year expiration period and can be used at any accredited post-secondary school. Please note that the Education Award is considered taxable income in the year that it is used.

Tutors who are 55 or older at the start of their service enjoy an additional benefit. They may choose to transfer their education award to a child, grandchild, or foster child within seven years. The award must be used within ten years of the tutor receiving it.

Student loan forbearance
If a tutor is making payments to a federally-backed education loan, payments can be put into forbearance during his or her year of service. Upon successful completion of the program, the accrued interest will be paid by the National Service Trust.

Photo credit Shmuel Thaler

Our Reading Corps tutors are highly effective. By now, you've read the position description. You've also studied the benefits and commitments to service on these two pages.

Are you ready to serve?

To apply: https://fs20.formsite.com/readingcorps/form127/form_login.html

Santa Cruz Reading Corps accepts applications until all positions have been filled.
If you have questions about the commitment or benefits, don't hesitate to reach out to
Christine Sieburg (831) 465-2208 csieburg@first5scc.org

Reading Corps will not discriminate for or against any AmeriCorps service member or applicant based on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, familial status, disability, sexual orientation, age, or any other category protected by law. Reasonable accommodations provided upon request. This document is available in alternative formats.