

MENTORING AND TUTORING

Idaho Reads!

“Idaho Reads” is an intergenerational tutoring program that addresses the challenge that every child be able to read well and independently by the end of the third grade.

Idaho Reads is a challenge to all citizens. Citizens from all walks of life have responded to the call; teachers, parents and grandparents, librarians, and business partners.

Even when students receive the best in-class instruction, some will always need extra time and assistance to meet the levels of reading skills needed in school, in the workplace, and throughout life. RSVP tutors complement and expand existing literacy efforts by extending reading learning time. The AmeriCorps VISTA coordinates the “Idaho Reads” program in conjunction with teachers, reading specialists, librarians, principals, and volunteer site coordinators. There are currently 20 schools in the northern counties of Idaho that proudly incorporate RSVP “reading partners” into their curriculums.

RSVP tutors work with children in all grades. Tutoring sessions usually range from 30-40 minutes, one time per week. The sessions are one-on-one, providing individual reading opportunities for students.

Upon joining the “Idaho Reads” team, seniors are offered an initial literacy training, either by the school’s reading specialist or the VISTA volunteer. Once the volunteers are under way, the benefits are innumerable. Children receive the amazing gift of literacy and seniors benefit from a sense of accomplishment, pride, and increased self-worth. The community recognizes volunteers efforts as well.



Research shows that tutoring increases a child’s reading achievement, confidence and motivation

Seniors Mentoring Teens

A vital volunteer opportunity of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, mentors are matched with at-risk teens in alternative high schools in Post Falls, Rathdrum, and Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. Besides working in schools, we also place volunteers at CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), Juvenile Justice, and the Teen Aid Project. The mentor and mentee meet every week at a specific location in the school according to a pre-arranged schedule.

As a mentor, you can be a sounding board to listen and provide guidance and reflection for the choices and decisions that students are facing. Through your own life experience and through listening, you can work with a student to help discover his/her strengths, directions, and goals and, also, to explore personal, educational, and career choices. The key to mentoring is positive change through a caring relationship, rather than through professional services.

Contact RSVP at 800-786-5536 x235 or by email at rsvp@aaani.org to find out how you can become a volunteer.