Summer Reads VISTA 2013 Position Description

Change a child’s life this summer! Tutor young children to improve their literacy and reading skills. Use your creativity to engage kids in learning activities that will keep their minds sharp!

Position Description

Do you like helping others? Would you like professional experience and training that looks good on your resume? Can you commit to approximately 40 hours a week from June-August? Change a child’s life this summer by joining Summer Reads, an AmeriCorps VISTA program at the Minnesota Literacy Council. Summer Reads provides high-quality literacy tutoring to low-income children in grades K-3 in schools, libraries and community organizations across the state. While specific roles and responsibilities of individual VISTAs may vary depending on site placements, Summer Reads focuses on reducing the decline of literacy skills in low-income children over the summer months, a phenomenon commonly referred to as the “summer slide.” Equipped with in-depth training in literacy tutoring practices and given opportunities to add their own ideas and creativity, VISTAs typically spend mornings providing one-to-one tutoring in summer schools and afternoons at community sites, where they incorporate literacy and enrichment activities into programming in innovative ways. Summer Reads is an exciting opportunity to experience direct service with children and grow as tutors and mentors.

Program/Organization description

The Minnesota Literacy Council shares the power of learning through education, community building and advocacy. We provide life-changing literacy services for children, youth and adults, as well as leadership and expertise in literacy to organizations and individuals across the state through educational technology, constituent networking, technical assistance, training and national service. The Summer Reads program goals are to: 1) help low-income children ages 5-10 sustain and improve their literacy skills over the summer; 2) improve children’s overall engagement with reading through positive tutor interactions; and 3) increase the capacity of all host sites to better serve children over the summer months.

Qualifications

Summer Reads VISTAs serve full-time for 8 weeks from June to August and are not permitted absences for vacations or personal time. They are not able to hold additional jobs or take college courses during the term of service (unless enrolled in a class that does not disrupt the Summer Reads schedule). Qualifications include:

- At least 18 years of age at the time of placement (required)
- A U.S. Citizen, National or Legal Resident (required)
- Must be able to clear a general background check, including a search of the Sex Offender Public Registry (required)
- History of volunteerism, work with literacy, or work with children
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must be able to speak proficiently in English and read aloud to groups/individual children
- Strong organizational skills and attention to detail
- Must be able to serve full-time (approximately 40 hours per week) from June 10-August 4 (no vacation or personal time permitted)
- Must not have another job or go to school full-time during service
- Additional language skills desired but not required, especially in Spanish, Somali, Hmong, or Karen

Compensation

Summer Reads VISTAs receive a bi-weekly living allowance of $453 and are eligible to receive a $1,100 Education Award or $200 cash stipend at the end of their service. Reimbursement for mileage driven between placement sites is also available. Public benefit assistance is not affected by VISTA service. VISTAs are eligible for federal student loan forbearance.

To Apply

Visit our website for details on how to apply for the Summer Reads VISTA position: www.mnliteracy.org/volunteers/vista/summer-reads-vista.

Applicants must create a My AmeriCorps account to apply. After you create your My AmeriCorps account, you must then apply to the Summer Reads position listing. Applications are accepted and interviews are granted on a rolling basis until April 20. Applications submitted by March 15 will be given priority.

Questions?

Contact Meghan Paul-Cook, Summer Reads Coordinator, at mpaulcook@mnliteracy.org or 651-251-9069, or Mari Jo Long, Summer Reads Assistant, at mlong@mnliteracy.org, 651-251-9063.