



Reading Seed Reading Coaches

Sponsored by Rotary Club of Tucson

Helping kids learn to read so they can read to learn

Requirements and Expectations

The only qualification for being a successful reading coach is a love of children and reading. Reading coaches commit one hour per week to work one-on-one with two children (30 minutes each) at a convenient school site. All reading coaches participate in a three-hour training. Before they begin work in their assigned schools, all reading coaches also are cleared by two investigative services. Background checks are conducted to help protect children within the school setting. The Academy of Driving/Motor Vehicle Center takes fingerprints at the training workshops. Fingerprint cards are forwarded to the school districts for additional background checks.

Training Manual

A new comprehensive Training Manual has been developed in cooperation with Flowing Wells School District, the Tucson-Pima Public Library system, the University of Arizona College of Education and the Tucson Unified School District. The information will be reviewed at the Training Workshops. Every reading coach will be given a notebook to be used as a reference guide.

Participating Schools

The superintendents of all school districts have been contacted and over 70 elementary schools have requested reading coaches. For a complete list of participating schools, please contact Reading Seed at 798-0700.

Recruitment

Presentations about Reading Seed have been made to senior clubs, civic organizations, fraternal organizations, neighborhood groups and churches. Over 100 groups have been contacted, and 21 presentations have been made. Presentations to additional groups are being pursued on an ongoing basis.

Partnerships are being sought with businesses whereby they will provide time off and encourage employees to volunteer as reading coaches in nearby elementary schools. Beyond the positive impact the reading coaches will have with the students, employee

involvement at the school will strengthen the relationship between the business and the neighborhood.

The Reading Seed staff is actively working with The Volunteer Center of Southern Arizona, which has been an excellent recruiting resource. Reading Seed will have a booth at the Senior Expo, in cooperation with Randolph Center, and at the Senior Olympics. Discussions are currently in process with Pima Community College, Fred G. Acosta Job Corps, Volunteer Center Experience Corps and Flowing Wells High School as sources of volunteer Reading Coaches.

Reading Seed Volunteers

In schools

Reading Coaches: Approximately 125 reading coaches from the 2003-2004 school year will be returning. The goal for this year is to recruit and train 500 additional reading coaches.

Team Leaders: Team leaders will be assigned to all schools. They will act as liaisons between the reading coaches, school staff and Reading Seed staff.

At the Reading Seed office

Clerical Assistants: Two volunteers are needed to assist with mailings, filing, making reminder calls, and to assist with data entry using MS Excel and compiling and maintaining volunteer hours.