

IS READING CORPS RIGHT FOR YOU?

Colorado Reading Corps • 2018-19

What We'll Ask of You

Commit to a full term of service

After we hire and train a tutor for a school, we rely on that tutor for the whole term of service— no substitutes or replacements. Our service term runs from August-June each year. *Tutors have the option of finishing at the close of the school year if they have met the minimum requirements.*

Serve in a full-time capacity to achieve minimum hour requirements

All tutors are expected to serve at least 40 hours per week when school is in session. The majority of these hours are accrued during typical school-day hours. The remaining balance of the hours would be served in before- or after-school programming and community-based service opportunities (e.g., serving at the local library).

Each service term has a set hours goal that the tutor must meet by the end of their service term in order to successfully complete the program. For example, a tutor serving a full year term of service is expected to complete 1720 hours from August – June. Tutors starting later in the year may be offered a reduced term with proportionate benefits.

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. To meet the minimum number of service hours, tutors also participate in after-school activities and some evening school functions.

Participate in professional training

Tutors accepted into the program attend all required training sessions. “What You’ll Gain” (below) explains how our training model sets us apart, and why we aren’t shy about making it a requirement. The initial training and orientation is multiple days and covers everything you will need to know in order to get started at your school. Additional required and optional trainings throughout the year will continue to build your skills.

Engage and cultivate the spirit of service 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 serving additional students 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.

Financial Benefits

Living allowance

Tutors receive a living allowance, rather than an hourly wage or salary. Prior to taxes, the living allowance is up to \$13,732 for the 11 month service term and is distributed twice per month. Applicants must carefully consider their financial situation to determine if they can afford the commitment to serve with Reading Corps.

Education Award

Tutors who successfully complete their term of service will receive an [education award](#) of up to \$5,920 for the full 1720 hour term. The education award can be used to pay back federal student loans, and/or to pay for 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 by the transfer recipient within ten years of the tutor receiving it.

Student loan forbearance

If a tutor is making payments to a federally-backed education loan, payments may 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.

Health insurance

Tutors are eligible to enroll in a health insurance plan through Corps Network and provided by Cigna. This plan may differ from a traditional major medical health plan. Applicants are encouraged to visit <http://www.nascc.org/health-insurance-ameri-corps-members> and view the benefit summary to determine if the insurance provided by Reading Corps will meet their health needs during their term of service. The insurance does not cover dependents.

Childcare assistance

Tutors may qualify (based on income) to receive child care reimbursement assistance. If you are interested in this benefit, please contact us to learn more about this benefit before accepting a position.

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, visit <http://youthforachange.org/services/colorado-reading-corps/apply.html>

Colorado Reading Corps will not discriminate on the basis of age, race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, color, religion, national origin, disability, genetic information, or any other status protected by federal, state or local law. We will endeavor to make reasonable accommodations for otherwise qualified applicants who have disabilities which hinder their ability to complete the application process. Please contact Human Resources at 303.292.2779 to request accommodation.