

America Reads frequently asked questions

What do tutors do?

The tutors' main job is to get kids excited about reading. They will be placed at a school or community site where they will be placed with one to four students for the semester. Students' grade levels range from kindergarten to sixth grade. Each week, tutors plan lessons that include games and activities that focus on skills in:

- Reading
- Letter-sound relationships
- Writing
- Comprehension

In addition, successful tutors:

- Enjoy helping young children become independent readers
- Can commit to tutoring the same hours each week
- Can commit to at least a semester of service, but preferably a year

Tutors will participate in tutor training and bi-weekly meetings where they will learn a variety of tutoring strategies as well as reflect on their tutoring experiences.

Who's eligible to become a tutor?

Because America Reads is a federal work-study, community service initiative, all America Reads Tutors must receive a work-study award as part of their financial aid package. Contact the Office of Financial Assistance at 529.8734 for information about your eligibility.

Where are the tutoring sites?

Currently, our partners include Marshall Elementary School (Oxford), Kramer Elementary School (Oxford), Bogan Elementary School (Oxford), Talawanda Middle School (Oxford), Madison Elementary School (Hamilton), and Living Water Ministry (Hamilton).

How will tutors be chosen?

Selection of tutors will be based upon eligibility as a work-study grant recipient, completion of an application, schedule availability, and an interview.

How will tutors be placed?

The placement of tutors will be based upon each tutor's availability, needs of the participating sites and transportation considerations.

How are tutors scheduled?

Depending on the placement, tutors will work either one-on-one with a student in K - 6 for 20 - 30 minutes during the school day or they will have a small group (2-5 students) in an after-school program for 2 hours.

Tutors will attend orientation and training sessions at the beginning of each semester and monthly in-service training during the academic year in the evenings. After placement at a site, tutors will create activities based on their students' needs prior to each tutoring session, write outcomes after each session and carry out an ongoing assessment of the child, all part of the America Reads tutoring experience.

How much time will be required?

The tutoring time is set for each week; tutors need to commit to the same tutoring hours each week. Additionally, tutors will spend time on lesson planning, attending monthly training sessions, and meeting with other tutors from the same site.

How will tutors be paid?

The starting pay rate for tutors will be \$7.70 per hour. This will include all orientation and training sessions, monthly meetings, tutoring sessions, lesson planning time, and transportation time. Payment will be made according to Miami's terms of direct deposit to the tutor's designated bank account.

How will tutors get to their sites?

Transportation is provided for all tutors either by university vans or cars, or by carpools arranged with students who have their own transportation.

Why should I become an America Reads tutor?

- To provide community service in a challenging and interesting environment
- To receive training in literacy strategies that will be useful now and in the future
- To help foster social justice through increasing others' literacy skills
- To problem-solve and learn while helping others
- To gain unique work experience that indicates commitment
- To further develop interpersonal skills with adults and children

Is this program right for me?

If you answer yes to the following questions you should apply!

- Do you enjoy working and have patience with young children?
- Are you interested in contributing to the success of young children while enhancing your educational experience through community service?
- Can you fulfill the following responsibilities as a tutor?
 - Commit to at least one semester of service
 - Be punctual and show up at your assigned site on time and consistently each week
 - Attend a pre-service orientation and ongoing training sessions
 - Maintain regular communication with teachers at your school or community site, other tutors, and program coordinators
 - Be thoughtful in planning for your tutoring sessions and document your lessons and progress with students
 - Adhere to all America Reads and site specific guidelines and regulations
 - Commit to checking and responding to America Reads e-mail communication in a timely manner

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