



Thank you for your interest in volunteering with Reading Rocks this summer!

Program Description

The Education Foundation for Billings Public Schools is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to be Reading Mentors to children (pre-kindergarten through sixth grade) at parks around Billings this summer at *Reading Rocks*. This program is offered four days a week in conjunction with the free lunch program provided by School District 2.

Reading Rocks 2024 is looking forward to an outstanding summer. This year's Reading Rocks program will include all the reading activities Reading Rocks is known for: guest storytellers, volunteer Reading Mentors to help children practice their reading, and free books for children to take home. We are excited to help students grow their home libraries and improve their literacy over the summer!

Who Should Volunteer?

- High school students, college students, and adults who enjoy working with children.
- Individuals who enjoy sharing their passion for reading with kids and handing out books.

What's the goal of Reading Rocks?

The goal of Reading Rocks is to provide a fun and structured environment for students to read in during the summer months. Statistics show that low-income students' reading skills slip backward by two to three months each summer when they are away from school. By providing summer reading opportunities in a convenient location, we hope to help reverse this trend.

Scope of Responsibilities

- New volunteers must attend a brief training, training dates and locations can be found on application below.
- Volunteers should be prepared to volunteer from noon-1pm at the location they choose, or 5-6pm for the evening program.
- We ask that volunteers be able to volunteer at least 5 times during the summer.
- Each day starts with unloading and setting up the tables with books and sanitation. The session begins with setting up, gathering everyone by the canopy, listening to the guest storyteller, then is concluded by reading with volunteers and cleaning up.

Summer Schedule

Reading Rocks will run from **June 12 to July 25, 2024:**

- Mondays at Castle Rock Park (noon-1pm)
- Mondays at North Park (noon-1pm)
- Tuesdays at Pioneer Park (noon-1pm)
- Tuesdays at Central Park (noon-1pm)
- Wednesdays at Hawthorne Park (noon-1pm)
- Wednesdays at Orchard Elementary (noon-1pm)
- Thursdays at Veterans Park (noon-1pm)
- Thursdays at Pioneer Park (noon-1pm)
- Thursday evenings at South Park (5-6pm)

Benefits

Helping children succeed at reading is a highly rewarding experience. Volunteers will benefit as much as the children by seeing their enthusiasm.

Policies: Animals: Given insurance requirements and to ensure the safety of all participants, there shall be no animals, except medical aid animals, at any Education Foundation for Billings Public Schools event, including but not limited to Reading Rocks and Saturday Live.

READING ROCKS

Volunteer Application Form

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip _____

Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Email: _____

References: Please choose your references from among the following: employer, minister, and/or colleague.

1. Name: _____ Phone: _____

Relationship: _____

2. Name: _____ Phone: _____

Relationship: _____

Days/dates I would like to volunteer:

_____ Mondays at Castle Rock Park (noon-1pm)

_____ Mondays at Orchard Elementary (noon-1pm)

_____ Tuesdays at Pioneer Park (noon-1pm)

_____ Tuesdays at Central Park (noon-1pm)

_____ Wednesdays at Castle Rock Park (noon-1pm)

_____ Wednesdays at Big Sky Elementary (noon-1pm)

_____ Thursdays at Central Park (noon-1pm)

_____ Thursdays at Pioneer Park (noon-1pm)

Applicant's Signature: _____

If the volunteer is under 18 please write their name in parentheses and have an adult sign next to your name in parentheses.

T-Shirts:

Our volunteers are recognized by our matching Reading Rocks t-shirts. If you are a past volunteer and do not need a t-shirt you can select do not need a t-shirt. If you need a t-shirt please circle what size you would like.

- Small
- Medium
- Large
- X-Large
- I prefer a visor
- Do not need

Training Dates:

We ask our new volunteers to attend one of the following trainings to become acquainted with the program format and goals. Please circle the date that works best for you. Past volunteers do not need to attend training.

- June 4th Tuesday Noon-1pm @ Lincoln Center
- June 5th Wednesday 6-7pm @ Zoom

Please return your Reading Rocks Volunteer Application to:

Education Foundation
Attn: Reading Rocks
415 North 30th Street
Billings, MT 59101
406-281-5150 (phone)
Email to: sessomsh@billingssschools.org

**DON'T FORGET TO PRINT AND COMPLETE THE BACKGROUND CHECK FORM
AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE.**

***You will receive a confirmation letter in the mail with program details.
Thank you for being a part of Reading Rocks!***