



# Join the SMART Volunteer Network

**Title:** SMART Reader

## **Purpose of the Assignment**

This volunteer position is the backbone of the SMART program providing the one-on-one reading attention that allows young children to gain confidence in their reading ability. Although SMART is not a learn-to-read program, volunteers are asked to share their love and enthusiasm of reading along with genuine caring. As a result, children receive the two key components basic to early reading success: exposure to language and human interaction.

**Reports to:** SMART Site Coordinator

## **Key Responsibilities**

All SMART volunteers are responsible to support SMART's mission, vision, and program standards, adhering to SMART volunteer policies and procedures. Volunteers maintain open and regular communication with direct supervisors, reporting any concerns immediately.

Additionally, Readers:

- Build a caring relationship and fulfill the commitment to read the same time each week, one-on-one with two K-3 children during the school year
- Complete the required training on basic read-aloud strategies and be familiar with all school requirements and emergency procedures
- Complete all required documentation during the reading sessions
- Help kids choose take-home books provided by SMART every month
- Use the approved volunteer list, to, whenever possible, arrange for a substitute Reader for absences known in advance
- Help kids vote for their favorite book during the annual SMART Book Award event in February
- Follow all SMART and site risk management procedures

## **Helpful Qualities and Skills**

- Advocate of children's literacy and dedication to community service
- Enjoyment and familiarity of children's literature
- Ability to enthusiastically read books aloud
- Ability to relate positively to young children
- Understanding of children's developmental stages
- Reliable

## **Training and Support**

Readers are provided training in SMART program basics and read aloud strategies prior to starting their volunteer experience. Some information is also given regarding age-appropriate developmental stages and behavioral strategies. A Site Coordinator is present during reading sessions to answer questions and assist.

**Commitment**

Volunteers commit to reading a minimum of one hour per week during the SMART program year which occurs from mid-October to mid-May at most SMART sites. Most programs operate during the school day with a few programs being offered during after school programs.

The volunteer time is mutually agreed upon between the Site Coordinator and Reader based on the SMART site times and days available. All regular school holidays are observed.

**Location of Volunteer Assignment**

SMART partners with hundreds of schools throughout Oregon. View a list of SMART sites online at [www.GetSMARTOregon.org](http://www.GetSMARTOregon.org) or request a list from the local SMART office.

**Benefits to You**

- Research shows that volunteering helps you stay healthy and keeps your brain sharp
- The satisfaction of helping children and having a significant, long-term impact on their lives
- The opportunity to work with educational professionals
- Volunteering in an atmosphere that is youthful, upbeat, and prevention-based
- Keeps you in touch with your community
- The opportunity to learn new skills or enhance existing ones
- Offers a connection to the local school community
- Being part of a larger, statewide program that improves children's literacy
- The potential to make new friends
- The opportunity to lead a team of committed volunteers making a significant contribution to the local community

*Apply online today at [www.GetSMARTOregon.org](http://www.GetSMARTOregon.org)*