



Sign up to be a *Reading Rocks* Volunteer 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 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 2023 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, volunteers Reading Mentors to help children practice their reading, and children will get to pick their own book 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, college students, and adults who enjoy working with children.
- Individuals who enjoy sharing their passion for reading while 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.
- We ask that volunteers be able to volunteer at least 5 times during the summer.
- Each day starts with unloading and setting out the canopy and blankets and putting out book tubs.
- 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 12th to July 20th, 2023 from 12:00 to 1:00 pm**. There will be no programs on July 3rd, 4th, or 5th.

- 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 Hawthorne Park (noon-1pm)
- Wednesdays at Terry Park (noon-1pm)
- Thursdays at Central Park (noon-1pm)
- Thursdays at Pioneer Park (noon-1pm)
- Thursday evening 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:

Background Checks: All volunteer Reading Mentors will be required to undergo a background check through Billings Public Schools (BPS). All personal information will be kept private and secure with the BPS HR Department.

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.



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 Hawthorne Park (noon-1pm)

_____ Wednesdays at Terry Park (noon-1pm)

_____ Thursdays at Central Park (noon-1pm)

_____ Thursdays at Pioneer Park (noon-1pm)

_____ Thursday evenings at South Park (5-6pm)

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
- Do not need

Training Dates: Please Circle the date that you are able to attend.

- June 6th Tuesday Noon-1pm @ Lincoln Center
- June 7th Wednesday Noon-1pm @ Lincoln Center
- Online (Foundation staff will send you a link)
- Past volunteers do not need to attend training

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@billingsschools.org