



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is AARP Foundation Experience Corps?

AARP Foundation Experience Corps is an evidence-based intervention for improving the reading proficiency of kindergarten through third grade students. It engages the experience and skills of adults 50 and over to target underperforming students in low-income, high-need communities. By targeting schools in high need communities with large percentages of K-3 students who are below grade level in reading and introducing well-trained adults who are 50-plus as volunteer literacy tutors, K-3 students will accelerate their literacy achievement and reach grade level by the end of third grade. At the school level, Experience Corps school site staff and volunteer leaders work closely with school districts, administrators, and teachers to ensure that the right interventions are getting to the right students and classrooms.

How does AARP Foundation Experience Corps help students?

Experience Corps is best suited for students who are 1.5 years below grade level, allowing teachers to differentiate instruction based on student needs. Experience Corps improves overall reading ability of students by building their fluency, accuracy, and comprehension skills. Fluency is highly predictive of overall reading ability on comprehensive state and national measures grades 1-3. Given the class sizes and time constraint in today's classrooms, Experience Corps provides support to the highest needs students to improve their fluency through repetition and practice with connected text. The support provided by our volunteer tutors in 1:1 or small group sessions helps students grow in this important skill. Non-sustained classroom literacy assistance is offered as a supplemental strategy.

How is AARP Foundation Experience Corps different from other tutoring programs?

Experience Corps specifically recruits adults who are 50+ years of age to be tutors. We believe that by making full use of the wealth of work experiences, life experiences, skills and abilities of our volunteers, children, schools and the community benefit. Experience Corps volunteers serve in teams with a higher commitment of hours per week. This allows the program to have a greater presence and impact on the school or afterschool environment. Our volunteers are praised for their consistency, dedication and reliability. On-going training and support of our volunteers is another key component of the program. Evidence confirms that the presence of an older adult in the classroom or afterschool setting and the mentoring relationship that develops with individual students is a critical component leading to student academic success.





Who are AARP Foundation Experience Corps volunteers?

Our volunteers are the centerpiece of the Experience Corps program. They are truly local heroes, women and men devoting 4-15 hours each week for an entire school year to assist struggling students in their community. They come with a wealth of different work and life experiences. Many are longtime residents who want to give back, make a meaningful difference in their cities, towns, neighborhoods and have education backgrounds ranging from High School to advanced degrees. Experience Corps volunteers also benefit from their engagement with the program through increased socialization with peers, they are happier and healthier than adults who do not choose to volunteer.

What type of training does a tutor receive?

Volunteer tutors receive a minimum of 25 hours of training, prior to and during the school year. Since the program focus is on early literacy skills for kindergarten through third grades much of the training centers on the five components of reading with accompanying activities and materials. Volunteer tutors also are trained on child development, tutoring strategies, behavior management, and other skills important to their success with students. Schools are encouraged to include tutors in any relevant training provided by the district.

How many tutors will be placed at a school or afterschool site?

Typically eight up to twelve tutors are placed at each school or afterschool site. Tutors devote a minimum of four hours a week and up to 15 hours per week. A commitment for the school year is required. The tutoring sessions typically run from September through May.

If I have questions, who do I call?

The Point of Contact for new communities is our Director of Field Services:

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