

Montclair Freedom School 2017 Volunteer Guide

June 19 - July 27, 2017

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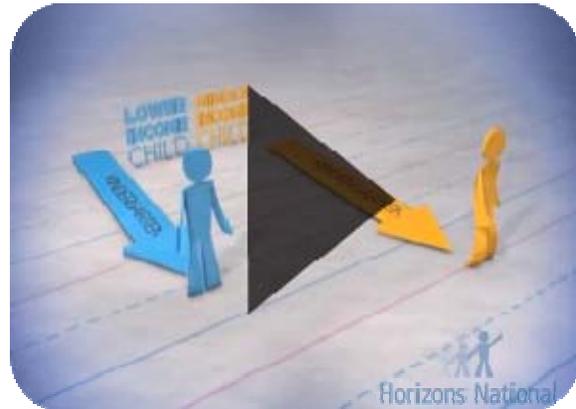
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WHY FREEDOM SCHOOL?

THE CHALLENGE: SUMMER LEARNING SLIDE

By fifth grade, low-income children are approximately 2 ½ years behind their more affluent peers, primarily because of learning loss during the summer.

[Click here to view a video](#) about this issue, or Google 'summer learning loss video'



THE RESULTS: FREEDOM SCHOOLS REVERSE THE SLIDE

90% of children attending Freedom School maintain or improve their reading level and 65% increase their reading skills.



THE ROLE MODELS: SERVANT LEADER INTERNS

During the six weeks of Freedom School children fall in love with reading, as they meet in small groups for intensive reading study. Each group is led by an intern, who is a college student. The interns are role models for

the children they mentor. A child can look at an intern and say "A few years from now, that could be me!"

OTHER FREEDOM SCHOOL BENEFITS:

- At DEAR Time (Drop Everything and Read), community volunteers actively listen to a student read.
- Students receive two nutritious meals daily plus a snack (critical for children in poverty).
- Afternoons are filled with enrichment activities such as science, math, drama, art, and music.



Sign Up to Volunteer at Montclair Freedom School

Sign up for all volunteer opportunities at Volunteer Hub, at this link:

<http://montclair.freedom-school-partners.volunteerhub.com>

The first time you visit this page, register as a volunteer by clicking on Sign In at the upper right and follow the directions from there.



After you register you can sign up to be a **DEAR** Buddy, **Chaperone** on Field Trips and more. Even if you only volunteer once during the summer you will be helping a child.

How else can I get involved?

- You're invited to visit with the children during breakfast any day (8 - 8:30).
- Drop by for HARAMBEE, a high-energy time of songs and stories that's better than coffee to get your morning going (8:30 – 9:00).



Questions?

- **What are the dates and times?** June 19 – July 27, 8am until 3pm.
- **Where is it?** Montclair Elementary School, 5801 Farmbrook Drive, 28210.
- **Can children help?** We would like everyone, regardless of age, to participate. Small children can help make snacks and come with a parent to Harambee. High school students can volunteer as adults, and middle school students can help if accompanied by a parent. See "Who Can Volunteer" below for details.

All about DEAR Time

What days are DEAR time at Montclair Freedom School?

- Every weekday from June 19 through July 27 except for July 4, July 5, and July 13. DEAR Time on July 19 is a different format and time.

What is DEAR time?

- DEAR stands for “Drop Everything and Read.”
- **Please arrive at 11:10 am** to receive a partner, choose a book, and review helpful hints. After that you will actively engage with your student as they read aloud for 30 minutes.

How many children would I be matched up with?

- We’ve experimented in past summers and found that one-on-one is the best ratio.

How old are the children?

- There are three age groups: Level 1 are rising kindergarteners-rising 2nd graders, Level 2 are rising 3rd-5th graders, and Level 3 are middle school students.

Do I need to be there every day?

- We would love it if you could come every day, and we do hope you will come as often as you can. But, there is no minimum volunteer requirement.

Do I need to sign up ahead of time for specific dates?

- Please make every effort to sign up ahead of time. It’s helpful for the coordinators daily planning, but it’s not necessary.

Do I need to bring my own book?

- No. During DEAR time we use books that are matched to each child’s reading level, which maximizes the reading experience.

How will I know which books to pick for the child?

- DEAR time coordinators will give you the child’s reading level and direct you to the collection of books appropriate for that child.

Will I be working with the same child?

- Sometimes yes, sometimes no. If you are able to be at DEAR time several days in a row, we might ask you to work with the same child on consecutive days. If you are volunteering on a more “drop-in” basis, we may ask you to work with different children. As always, let DEAR time coordinators know your preferences and we will do our best to accommodate them, with the understanding that helping the children with their reading skills is first priority. **It is more likely you will be paired with a scholar you have worked with before, if you register a request with the DEAR coordinator and are a frequent volunteer who signs up online.**

Do I read or listen?

- Most of the children at Freedom School can read short books, so you will mainly be listening to the children read. For some of the youngest children, modeling how to read the text and then having the children repeat it is a particularly good idea with some of the younger children. Buddy reading in different, funny voices can also be a fun experience if the child is reading the text well. You might alternate pages if you sense that the child is particularly tired or unmotivated. The primary purpose of DEAR time is to give these young readers an opportunity to practice and maintain their reading skills.

What should I do besides listen?

- We are focusing on both reading ability (the ability to pronounce words) and reading comprehension (the ability to make sense of what is being read).
- Since it is possible for a child to be able to read words without comprehending them, you might ask some vocabulary and reading comprehension questions while you are reading and when a book/page/chapter is finished.

We hope you join us!

Reading Suggestions for DEAR Time

At DEAR time, we have two major goals—helping students decode words and aiding their reading comprehension. Decoding words is a complicated process, so any help that you can give your reader with letter sounds, especially with vowel sounds, will be useful. Try to break words into syllables by covering parts of the word with your fingers.

Reading comprehension is the ability to make sense from what is being read. A reader who comprehends the text puts together words and phrases to build a picture from the text and knows when she has made an error. She also has a working memory of the text.

Please see below for some helpful hints and strategies to build reading comprehension.

Tips to Help Students' Reading Comprehension at DEAR Time

Click here to view Read Charlotte's [video](#) for tips on Active Reading



- Ask questions about the story: who, what, when, where, why
- Use the questions to start a conversation about the book
- Examples: What do you think will happen next? Why did that character act like that? What lesson (moral) did you learn from the story? If you were giving a title to this book, what would it be?



- Ask what words mean
- Give examples for nouns and adjectives
- Act out verbs or adverbs



- Relate the story to kids' experiences
- Or relate things in the story to kids' experiences, asking questions about their likes and dislikes
- Ask student to retell the story in own words

Freedom School Lingo

DEAR Buddy - A community member who visits Freedom School to read with a scholar and help to build a love of and facility with reading.

Field Days - Scholars, with the help of volunteers, spend a morning at a game day, rotating to different stations and team-building activities. Field Days take place over three days with different levels and sites participating each day. Field Days 2017 will be held at Providence Day School and Sports Connection.

Finale - Finale is the end-of-Freedom School celebration to honor the scholars, interns, site coordinators and volunteers who participated in Freedom School. Volunteers are encouraged to attend and celebrate the scholars' summer achievements.

Harambee! - Daily pep rally that occurs every Monday-Friday between 8:30 – 9:00 AM at every site. Harambee Time includes cheers, chants, songs, and a community "Read Aloud" guest.

Interns - Servant Leader Interns (SLI) are college students that have a class of 10 scholars and a classroom.

Junior Servant Leaders (JSL) - Former scholars who are now high school students and site helpers.

On-Site Activities (OSA) - In the afternoon, scholars stay on campus participating in an on-site activity or go on field trips. Volunteers help with on-site activities by planning and sharing a fun 30 to 90 minute activity around a skill, interest, or hobby. Some examples of on-site activities include yoga, a cooking activity, bubble-making, decorating flip-flops, a mini soccer camp, or pulling out a pre-planned STEAM activity.

Site Coordinator (SC) - Manager of the Freedom School site.

Who Can Volunteer?

Volunteer Categories

Adults – 18 years old and no longer in High School

Volunteer Opportunities (Requires online “Profile” and signed Child Protection Policy)
May Serve All Levels (Grades K-8)

- On-site Activities (OSAs)
- DEAR Buddy
- Field Day
- Field Trips - Must pay their own fee. Adults and High School students rising 10th grade and older may ride the bus if there is room.
- Finale
- Jubilee
- Parent Meetings
- Scholastic Book Fair
- Site Set Up and Clean Up

High School Students – Rising 10th, 11th and 12th Grade

No IRC*
May Serve Level I and II Scholars Only (Grades K-5)

- Same activities as adult
- Cannot serve Level III

Rising 9th Grade, Middle School

Must be accompanied by Parent, who must serve as the primary volunteer (with the student acting as a helper).

May Serve Level I Scholars Only (Grade K-2)

- Same activities as adult
- Field Trips – Student must pay their own fee and cannot ride the bus.

*Volunteers are NOT needed during Integrated Reading Curriculum Time (IRC) from 9:00-12:00 p.m. This is crucial time for our interns and scholars to focus on the curriculum, team building and classroom cohesiveness.