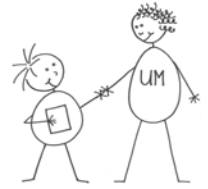


AMERICA READS * AMERICA COUNTS

Fall 2009 Application Packet



Thank you for your interest in becoming a mentor! The mission of America Reads * America Counts (ARAC), a partnership between the University of Maryland and Prince George's County Public Schools, is to provide high quality mentoring in local schools that enriches learning opportunities for both college and elementary school students. The ARAC office is home to three different mentoring programs:

America Reads

Time: 8 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., M-F

Reads mentors must be available for at least 2 hours at a time during this time block, and be able to work a minimum of 4 hours a week.

Description: Mentors work one-on-one with 1st and 2nd grade students who are struggling with reading.

Transportation: Mentors should allow sufficient time (approximately 15-30 minutes) for transportation when scheduling. Transportation options differ for each elementary school and include the UM shuttle, personal vehicles or ARAC vans.

America Counts

Time: 2 p.m. – 5 p.m., M-Th

Counts mentors must be available at least 1 day a week for the entire 2-5 p.m. time block, but preference will be given to those who can commit to 2 days a week.

Description: Mentors work with small groups of 4th graders who are struggling with math.

Transportation: The time block includes transportation to and from the schools; transportation is provided by ARAC.

Partners in Print

Time: 5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., Tues/Wed/Thurs

Mentors must be available for at least 2 days every week for the entire 5:30-8 p.m. time block, but preference will be given to students who are available 3 days each week.

Description: Partners in Print mentors conduct workshops with parents and their Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade children. These workshops are centered on ways parents can engage their children in reading at home. Workshops are conducted in both English and Spanish – ***Spanish speakers needed!***

Transportation: The time block includes transportation to and from the schools; transportation is provided by ARAC.

Mentor Responsibilities

All new mentors are **required** to attend an Orientation, Primary Training, and 2 Training & Reflection sessions over the course of the semester to develop and further improve their mentoring and leadership skills.

Time Commitment

Each Mentor's schedule will depend on his/her availability. However, once a schedule is set, mentors will need to commit to that same weekly schedule for the entire semester.

Qualifications

Prior tutoring experience is not necessary and all majors are welcome to apply! The basic and most important qualifications are as follows.

All Mentors must:

- Be enrolled at the University of Maryland, College Park.
- Be committed to making a difference in the lives of young children.
- Be reliable and responsible.
- Be able to commit to working for the entire semester.

Three ways you can work with ARAC:

- **Volunteer**

We welcome any and all volunteers, as long as you are able to commit to all of the minimum program requirements (including attendance at training sessions and sticking to a weekly mentoring schedule for a full semester).

- **Federal Work Study Employment**

Paid federal work study positions start at \$10 an hour. For information about your financial aid package, visit <http://www.testudo.umd.edu> and click on *Financials*. To check if you have Federal Work Study, click on *My Awards*. If you have not been awarded Federal Work Study, but have an unmet need (which can be found under *My Budget*), you can then apply for Federal Work Study at <http://www.financialaid.umd.edu>. Call the Financial Aid Office at 301-314-9000 for more information.

You MUST have an FWS award in order to get paid for your work with ARAC.

- **Academic Credit (3 options)**

1. **Enrollment in EDCI 2880: Special Topics in Teacher Education: America Counts/ Reads** (1 credit)

For this course you must be able to mentor 2 days a week. All other mentor requirements (i.e. training sessions) apply to EDCI2880 members. The class will meet 2-3 times outside of regular ARAC training and mentoring sessions to discuss people's experiences. You will be asked to read a few short articles and write several reflection journals about your work in the schools over the course of the semester. This course can be repeated for credit over multiple semesters.

2. **Enrollment in EDCP 318M: Applied Contextual Leadership – Leadership and Education** (3 credits)

This class will meet once a week (Mondays 12-2 p.m.) and will focus on education policy. The field work will be in the schools – you must be able to mentor 2 days a week.

3. **Internship as part of an academic department or class**

In the past, students have chosen AR*AC as an internship site as a part the following courses or programs: Family Science Dept., College Park Scholars Program, Inventis Program, American Studies Dept., Behavioral & Social Sciences (BSOS) Internship Program, History Dept., Civicus, and the Spanish Dept.

Note: We are open to working with any department or program on campus - the above list is not exhaustive.

Questions? Contact the ARAC office at 301-314-READ, or at arac@umd.edu.
Applications will be processed on a rolling basis this summer. Submit yours TODAY!
Final application deadline for the fall semester is September 4th at 5 p.m.



MENTOR APPLICATION – FALL 2009

America Reads * America Counts



INSTRUCTIONS: Please type directly into the application, print and attach requested documents, and submit to:

America Reads * America Counts Office
0144 Holzapfel Hall, College Park, MD 20742
Fax: 301-314-7365

OR

E-mail the application to arac@umd.edu

Applications will be processed on a rolling basis this summer. Submit yours TODAY!

Final application deadline for the fall semester is September 4th at 5 p.m.

Basic Information

Name: _____ Student UID #: _____

Current Address: _____

Current Phone: _____

Email: _____

Major(s): _____

Level of Study: Undergraduate/ Graduate

Expected Graduation: _____
Month/Year

Have you ever worked in or applied for a position at AR*AC? If so, when _____

How did you find out about AR*AC? _____

Will you have a car to use for transportation to and from your school site? Yes No

Do you speak Spanish? Yes, fluently Conversational A little No

Program

Rank the program(s) with which you are interested in working. (Please refer to the cover page of this application packet for program descriptions and hours):

- ___ America Reads
- ___ America Counts
- ___ Partners in Print

Type of Involvement/Employment

- Volunteer
- EDCI2880

Have you already registered for the course?
Yes No

- EDCP318M

Have you already registered for the course?
Yes No

- Internship (Class or Program): _____

Have you already registered for the course?
Yes No

- Federal Work Study

Have you already been granted an award?
Yes No

If so, what is the amount of your award?

Application continued on next page →

OFFICE USE ONLY	App. Complete _____	Date Received _____
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Availability

Please place an “X” in the hour blocks during which you CAN work for ARAC during Fall 2009.

AMERICA READS (must be available to work at least 2 hours at a time and at least 2 days a week)

If you prefer traveling to the school by UM SHUTTLE or PERSONAL VEHICLE – use the boxes below

(Please factor in travel time to and from the schools (approx 15 – 30 min) when indicating your availability below. For example, if you have a class that starts at 10 a.m., you will not be able to work from 9:30-10 a.m.)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00-8:30 a.m.					
8:30-9:00 a.m.					
9:00-9:30 a.m.					
9:30-10:00 a.m.					
10:00-10:30 a.m.					
10:30-11:00 a.m.					
11:00-11:30 a.m.					

If you prefer traveling to the school by VAN with other America Reads mentors – use the boxes below

(Travel time is included in the time blocks below. Mark ALL time blocks you are available, indicating your preference with a star)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:30 - 10:30 a.m.					
8:00 - 11:00 a. m					
8:30 - 11:30 a. m.					
9:00 -12:00 p.m.					

AMERICA COUNTS (must be available for the entire 2-5 p.m. time block, which includes transportation to and from school)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
2:00-5:00 p.m.				

PARTNERS IN PRINT (must be available for the entire 5:30-8 p.m. time block, which includes transportation to and from school)

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
5:30-8:00 p.m.			

Questions

Please answer both of the following questions on a separate sheet (200-250 words per question):

1. Describe an experience that has helped prepare you to work as a mentor for ARAC.
2. Talk about a group or team of which you have been a part - what did you learn about yourself through this experience?

Attachments

Please make sure the following three things are attached to your application:

1. Your answers to the questions above.
2. A resume and/or list of work experiences, volunteerism, or other involvement within your school or community.
3. A hard copy of your class schedule for Fall 2009 (from Testudo). If your schedule is not yet finalized, please attach what you have at this point.

Interviews

Once your complete application is received you will be contacted to set up a 30-minute interview. We can do interviews either in person or over the phone.

Applications will be processed on a rolling basis this summer. Submit yours TODAY!

Final application deadline for the fall semester is September 4th at 5 p.m.

Turn application in to the AR*AC office - 0144 Holzapfel Hall or e-mail to arac@umd.edu

America Reads*America Counts affirms its commitment to a policy of prohibiting discrimination on the basis of Race, Color, Creed, Sex (including sexual harassment), Sexual Orientation, Marital Status, Personal Appearance, Age, National Origin, Political Affiliation, and/or the exercise of rights secured by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.