



America Reads / America Counts

The America Reads Challenge is an initiative started in 1996 by the Clinton Administration. In August 1996, President Clinton proposed a national literacy campaign that would enlist "one million volunteer tutors ready and able to give children the personal attention they need to catch up and get ahead." The federal government would play a crucial but limited role as a catalyst in building the President's "citizen army" of reading tutors.

America Reads was established as a way to ensure that all children become successful readers. To further this effort, colleges and universities were encouraged to provide opportunities for work study students to serve as reading tutors to elementary school children. Building on the success of America Reads, the **America Counts** was established to provide tutoring assistance in mathematics to children in pre-k through 5th grade.

This program was designed specifically to fund tutoring positions for pre-school and elementary school children and their families. In addition, the America Counts program provides similar positions for math tutors.

UAH has been participating in the Federal America Reads/ Counts program since 1998. Our goal is to provide tutors and volunteers for kindergarten through third grade children at a local school.

Currently we are working with two elementary schools, [Rolling Hills](#) and [Morris](#). The Education Department at UAH conducts a training session for all tutors during an orientation prior to student begin their tutoring assignment for fall term. Each year UAH sends 15-20 tutors to these schools.

REQUIREMENTS

- 2.5 G.P.A.
- Qualification for financial aid (Federal Work Study Program)
- Excellent communication skills (written and oral)
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Availability to work up to 20 hours per week
- Good organizational skills
- Salary \$8.50 hourly
- Picture I.D. and Social Security Card
- Applicants must have own transportation
- 15 credit hours earned at UAH

Tutoring

America Reads/Counts tutoring is only one option for Federal College Work Study with a 2.5 or higher GPA.

You are not required to participate in this program and may choose a different assignment.

You should be comfortable working with elementary aged children.

You should have very good oral communication skills (good grammar and a clear voice.)

You will need to be able to work 10 - 20 hours per week (depending on your Financial Aid Award and your class schedule) during normal elementary school hours. Interviews will be held in July and August

A **mandatory** orientation/training meeting is required for those selected as tutors. For any questions regarding assignments, please contact UAH Education Department at (256) 824-2325

America Reads

- Reading aloud to students using materials allowed or provided by the school and/or classroom teacher.
- Listening and guiding students as they read aloud to their tutor
- Tutoring children in spelling, vocabulary, phonics, and reading comprehension.
- Working with students in writing activities
- Playing interactive educational games with children that help to improve literacy and language use.
- Assisting classroom teachers in administering reading assessments.
- Engaging in other activities that are specifically associated with helping a student improve his/her reading & writing skills

America Counts

- Working through math problems with children.
- Modeling math strategies with children, like counting.
- Using interactive education games that help children improve math fluency.
- Assisting classroom teachers administer math assessments.
- Engaging in other activities that are specifically associated with helping a student improve his/her math skills.

Role of the Tutor

- Be a positive role model for children.
- Create an environment of hope and opportunity for the children you work with.
- Build self-esteem and foster independence in children you work with.
- Listen to and read with children
- Involve children in reading, writing, word analysis, and comprehension activities during each session unless you are specifically working on math skills.
- Work 1 on 1 or with small groups on reading and/or math skills; working for at least 30 minutes with each child or group

Tutors will be expected to:

- Provide a minimum of one semester of tutoring services at your site; however two semesters are highly encouraged
- Work with Site Leader for placement and work schedule.
- Maintain a high level of integrity and commitment.
- Communicate openly and honestly with Site Leader if you have any problems or concerns.
- Be prompt and professional; dress appropriately; and make efficient use of your time with each child.
- Support the reading and instructional activities of the classroom teacher.
- Follow all school policies and guidelines.
- Notify the classroom teacher via email or phone at least 24 hours in advance if you must miss work (more than three unexcused absences at your site will result in dismissal from the program).
- Attend mandatory intensive training sessions at the beginning of each semester.
- Daily time sheet maintenance, secures supervisor's initials, and turn in by the pay period deadline.
- Meet once a semester with your team leader to discuss you experiences as a tutor