

Reading Partners

Refer A Friend Guide



Sharing Reading Partners' messages with your personal and professional connections through social media, email, and in-person conversations can have incredible reach, making a true impact in spreading awareness of our mission. Word-of-mouth is the top brand driver for Reading Partners! In celebration of our 20th anniversary, please consider sharing your personal story about how working with students has affected you. It will help others understand the important work that Reading Partners is doing and how they can be a part of this life-changing organization.

Share reasons why you are a Reading Partner using **#WhyIAmAReadingPartner**.

Please note: Personal stories are often the most heartwarming; however, please be cognizant of your student's privacy when speaking publicly about your relationship. As a guide, avoid referencing any easily identifiable factors, such as:

- Your student's first name (use a pseudonym instead)
- Your student's grade level
- Where your student lives
- Personal information about your student and his or her family
- Your student's picture

Find more resources on our website at readingpartners.org/take-action/refer-a-friend/

Thank you!

Social Media

Post a selfie with a caption (some samples below) or use the template (next page) to share why you are a Reading Partner. Be sure to tag @ReadingPartners and use the hashtag **#WhyIAmAReadingPartner** when posting on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Snapchat. Share far and wide and get your friends to join you!

- *@ReadingPartners connects volunteers like me with students in need to provide one-to-one reading support. It's only a short time each week, but I can see the impact of my tutoring in every session. That's #WhyIAmAReadingPartner.*
- *Did you know that nearly 9 million low-income K-5 students in the United States are not reading at grade level? @ReadingPartners and its volunteers have been tackling the problem for 20 years. That's #WhyIAmAReadingPartner.*
- *@ReadingPartners is celebrating 20 years of connecting volunteers like me with students in need of reading support. I can see the confidence build in students who learn how to read at grade level. That's #WhyIAmAReadingPartner.*
- *Interested in volunteering to help at-risk students develop their reading skills? You don't need to have a teaching background! @ReadingPartners' curriculum is designed for all volunteers. Positivity is the only prerequisite. That's #WhyIAmAReadingPartner.*
- *20 years ago, @ReadingPartners was in one school, working with a few students. Today, more than 11,000 students across 200+ schools are empowered by the program. That's #WhyIAmAReadingPartner.*
- *Here's a scary stat: Students who are not reading at grade level by the end of 3rd grade are four times more likely to not earn a high school diploma. Breaking that stat is one of the reasons #WhyIAmAReadingPartner with @ReadingPartners.*

If you feel comfortable, tell a personal story about your work with Reading Partners. How did you feel the first time you helped a student successfully read? Your story has the ability to inspire others to join this life-changing mission.

Quick links to our social channels:

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/readingpartners/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ReadingPartners.org/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ReadingPartners>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/reading-partners>

This is *#WhyIAmAReadingPartner*



[ReadingPartners.org/volunteer](https://www.ReadingPartners.org/volunteer)

Email Scripts

Hi [name],

Have I told you about my volunteer work with Reading Partners? It's an incredible organization that connects volunteers with students to help kids read at grade level. By fourth grade, students need to be able to read to learn; those who fall behind are four times more likely to leave high school without a diploma.

This academic year marks Reading Partners' 20th anniversary, and I want to help spread the word about the work they're doing. I currently volunteer to tutor the same student for one hour each week. The progress is visible, and we love to celebrate every milestone along the way. If you're looking for an impactful way to make a difference, I recommend volunteering with Reading Partners. It has become one of the most rewarding hours of my week.

If you can't donate your time but are able to make a [monetary donation](#), that also goes a long way. A \$50 donation funds training for a group of new volunteers, and \$100 affords 20 students a book of their own to take home.

If you're interested in learning more, I'd love to answer any questions about my experience. Or you can head over to <https://readingpartners.org/volunteer> for more information.

Thanks for your support, and I hope you'll join me!

Hi [name],

Did you know that there are 9 million low-income K-5 students in the United States not reading at grade level? That's a scary stat, but Reading Partners, a great organization that I've been volunteering with, is working to better it.

For 20 years, Reading Partners has connected volunteers with struggling readers in low-income communities. I donate a little time each week and see my student's face light up when that moment of reading comprehension clicks. I walk away knowing that [he/she] has a better chance of succeeding in school—and it's a confidence boost for [him/her], too.

I know that the donation of time isn't always possible. If you're able to make a [monetary donation](#), that also goes a long way. A \$50 donation funds onboarding and training for a group of new volunteer tutors like me.

Thanks for your support, and I hope you'll join me!

In-Person Conversations

If you're asked "What do you do?"

- [Briefly explain your professional work], and I'm really passionate about the volunteer work that I do with an organization called Reading Partners. They help struggling elementary-age students learn to read at grade level. It's so rewarding watching my student understand—and love!—reading.

If you're talking with someone and he or she mentions wanting to do volunteer work:

- Can I tell you about an organization that I've been working with? Reading Partners connects students in low-income communities with volunteers who help them learn to read at grade level. I had no idea that kids who aren't able to read to learn by 4th grade are four times more likely to leave high school without a diploma. It's a startling statistic that I'm really proud to help tackle.

If you're asked what you're doing this week:

- I'm volunteering at [X School] with Reading Partners. I work with students there to help them with their reading skills. Students reading below their grade level can really fall behind in their ability to succeed in the classroom, and I love being able to help prepare them for school and beyond.

If someone asks why he or she should volunteer with Reading Partners:

- You can make a direct, measurable, proven impact on a young student's life and, ultimately, the health of our community. Reading Partners focuses on early literacy, because when students reach the fourth grade they make the switch from "learning to read" to "reading to learn." You have to be able to read to succeed in all subjects, and students who struggle with reading just need some extra support. I volunteer with Reading Partners to tutor students and grow their reading confidence. Did I tell you about the time ... *[share a personal anecdote about working with a student, if appropriate]*.