

Reading Partners

Refer A Friend Toolkit



Word-of-mouth is one of the top brand drivers for Reading Partners. Sharing Reading Partners' messages with your personal and professional connections through social media, email, and in-person conversations can make a true impact in spreading awareness of our mission.

Please consider sharing your story about how working with students has impacted you. It will help others understand the important work that you are doing with Reading Partners and how they can join you in making a difference.

Share reasons why you volunteer using **#OneHourCanEmpower**.

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

Here are some examples of posts that you can share on social. Edit them and make them your own! Be sure to tag @ReadingPartners and use the hashtag #OneHourCanEmpower when posting.

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>

- *One of my favorite activities each week is volunteering one hour with @ReadingPartners. Working with my brilliant and fun student never fails to brighten my day. I encourage everyone to join me. #OneHourCanEmpower. <https://readingpartners.org/volunteer>*
- *Volunteering with @ReadingPartners has been a transformative experience. I invite all of my friends and family to step up and join me in tutoring a student. #OneHourCanEmpower <https://readingpartners.org/volunteer>*
- *@ReadingPartners connects volunteers like me with students in need of additional reading support. It only takes one hour each week and I can see my student transforming during each session. #OneHourCanEmpower. <https://readingpartners.org/volunteer>*
- *Did you know that nearly 9 million low-income K-5 students in the United States are not reading at grade level? I started volunteering with @ReadingPartners to create a more equitable education for all students. #OneHourCanEmpower. <https://readingpartners.org/volunteer>*
- *Interested in volunteering to help students develop their reading skills? Join me and sign up to volunteer with @ReadingPartners. It's easy and so impactful. Positivity is the only prerequisite. #OneHourCanEmpower. <https://readingpartners.org/volunteer>*
- *Here's a scary stat: Students who are not reading at grade level by the end of 3rd grade are four times less likely to graduate from high school on time. This is just one of the reasons why I volunteer with @ReadingPartners. #OneHourCanEmpower <https://readingpartners.org/volunteer>*

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?
- How has your student impacted your life?
- How do you feel after leaving the reading center.

Your story has the ability to inspire others to join this life-changing mission.

Email Scripts

Hi [Salutation],

I'm writing to tell 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. During my time at Reading Partners I've learned that when students can't read at grade level by fourth grade they are more likely to leave high school without a diploma and face further obstacles later in life.

I believe in creating a more equitable future for kids in our community, and that's why I currently volunteer to tutor a student for one hour each week. Every time I see my student, I notice their progress from the previous week and we have a blast reading together.

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. Head over to readingpartners.org/volunteer to learn more, or just reply here and I'd be happy to share more about my experience.

With gratitude,

PS - If you can't donate your time but are able to make a [financial contribution](#), that also goes a long way. A donation of \$100 sends books home with 20 students.

Hi [Salutation],

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.

Reading Partners connects volunteers with struggling readers in low-income communities to offer one-on-one tutoring. 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.

If you can spare an hour each week, I highly recommend volunteering with Reading Partners. Learn more at readingpartners.org/volunteer.

With gratitude,

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]*.

#OneHourCanEmpower



**READING
PARTNERS**