



ON-SITE ORIENTATION AND TRAINING A SUCCESS

The Public & School Partnership's On-Site Orientation and Training on August 22 was a great success!

Ten new PSP AmeriCorps VISTA members attended the four-hour training. While some of the new VISTA were born and raised in the Cache Valley area, the group represents a wide range of the United States, coming originally from Illinois, Texas and other locations.

At the end of the training, this year's mentors, Jenni Allred, Monique Marsh, Dawna Webb and Melissa Yardley met with the group.

We welcome all of the new VISTA members to the Public & School Partnership. While most have started working at their assigned locations already, several will start in September.

The new VISTA members join a number of continuing members who have already served one or more terms through PSP.

We wish all of you the best of success during the 2017-18 year.

VISTA POSITIONS ALL FILLED

With the addition of a two new PSP VISTA sites, Bates Elementary and North Cache Middle School, we have 18 sites who will benefit from having a VISTA member. In all, 23 VISTA members will serve with PSP during the 2017-2018 service year.

VISTA members this year are Me'lani Hogan-Cephas at ASTL; Monique Marsh at Bates Elementary; Jessica Zucchetto at Bridger Elementary; Kaylyn Christensen at Cache High; Angela Charles at East Hollywood HS; Ashlee Flitton at The Family Place; Michele Worthen at Fremont HS; Jason Jensen and Melissa Yardley at Green Canyon HS; Joanna Escalante at The Logan Family Center; Dawna Webb and Megan Hansen at Mountain Crest HS; Jenni Allred at North Cache MS; Amber Kelly, Rachel Haroldson and Myia Doss at Northern Utah Native Connection; Elisa Martinez as

the PSP VISTA Leader; Giselle Call and Trent Johnson at Ridgeline HS; Blake Tubbs at Sky View HS; Emma Tucek at Stokes Nature Center; Ashley Fleugel at South Cache; and, finally, Daniel Bialkowski at USU Education Outreach.

THE FIRST VISTA MEMBERS

AmeriCorps VISTA members have a long history of making a difference in America.

Back in 1965, twenty of the original members had the opportunity to meet with President Lyndon B. Johnson and Sargent Shriver at the White House.

President Johnson's words to those initial members still resonate as true for those who have joined the PSP AmeriCorps VISTA program this month.

"I want to welcome you here today, the first frontline volunteers in our war against poverty. You have come to serve the poor and the unfortunate of American society, and to open the door of American opportunity to all of our American people.

"...You will have the satisfaction of leading a great national effort, and you will have the ultimate reward which comes to those who serve their Nation and who serve their fellow man.

"This is your job--to guide the young, to comfort the sick, to encourage the downtrodden, to teach the skills which may lead to a more satisfying and a more rewarding life. On your idealism and on your success rests much of our hope for the final elimination of poverty in our American life. "

VISTA MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Mountain Crest High School

AmeriCorps VISTA members serving at Mountain Crest High School and Northern Utah Native Connection ran a school supply drive on July 29, 2017. Their programs serve populations that are often low income, which means that their students are unable to afford basic school supplies. As a team, the VISTA members reached out to the Walmart in southern Cache Valley in the hopes that they would host the event. To their delight, Walmart was in full

support of their drive and gave them space at both main entrances of the store.

VISTA members Melissa Yardley, Jason Jensen, Karen Washburn, Rachel Busenbark, Aubree Thomas, and Dawna Webb each served between 4-8 hours during the day to ask for donations. The response from the community was incredible! By the end of the School Supply Drive, the VISTA members were able to gather almost \$1000 worth of school supplies.

Box Elder Middle School

AmeriCorps VISTA member, Shayley Warner, was asked by her supervisor at Box Elder Middle School to create a Clothing Swap to benefit the students at her school.

The goal of the Clothing Swap was to meet the basic needs of their students by offering lightly used clothing to them at no cost whatsoever. Shayley worked side-by-side with the Counseling Office at BEMS to create flyers and social media advertisements to solicit clothing donations from the community at large.



These advertisements were incredibly successful, and clothing donations poured into their offices within the first few days of advertising. By the start of the actual swap, enough clothes to support the students at BEMS, as well as older and younger students who do not attend BEMS. The day of the event Shayley, along with other VISTA members and two school counselors, set up all the clothes on tables outside of the gym, and were able to have the 20 tables ready to go for the event to start at 8:00 am.

Throughout the day, many families came to the swap and left with the clothes that would sustain them throughout the school year. One woman said, "You are incredible to do this. I have four children, and I had no idea how I was going to be able to get them clothes this year. Thank you so much for doing this!" By the end of the day, there were 150+ students and their families who came through and received clothing.

Ellis Elementary / CRIC

PSP summer associates at Ellis Elementary served at the NewComers Camp, in partnership with the Cache Refugee & Immigrant Connection (CRIC). The camp is for young English-language learners to help them prepare for the classroom.

Thirty-eight children in the mornings read 3,287 books and thirty-three afternoon children read 3,277 books during June and July. Wow! That means that each child on average read 92 books over the two months!

VISTA MEMBER RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Thanking Our VISTA Members for Their Work:

- The *Above & Beyond Award* for the VISTA who puts in extra effort for PSP, their site, or a struggling student.
- The *Good Role Model Award* for the VISTA who exemplifies what it means to be a National Service volunteer.
- The *Outstanding Outcomes Award* for the VISTA who makes big impacts on their site and their community.
- The *Determination Award* for the VISTA who rises to face challenges and overcomes them with unyielding tenacity.

This Month's Determination Award: Trent Johnson

Trent recently began his VISTA service with PSP at Ridgeline HS. During his first month of service, Trent has already shown that he has a work ethic, energy, and determination to defeat any task with vigor. He projects this determination with confidence, but Trent also projects an air of humbleness that generates an atmosphere of trust and respect. Trent is an extremely dependable team member, and is always willing to jump in and help with any project. Trent's strength in character and ability to efficiently accomplish tasks with limited information and resources is a breath of fresh air. He truly is a necessity to any team, and it has already been a delight having Trent on this year's PSP VISTA team.



*Thank You
So Much
For Your
Service*

PSP Newsletter

Senior and Community Volunteers



Sponsored by the Public & School Partnership at Utah State University. We match volunteering opportunities to seniors in Cache County..

August , 2017

Current and planned organizations where PSP Senior and Community Volunteers serve:

In Hyrum:

Mountain Crest High School

In Logan:

Adams Elementary
Bear River Head Start
Bridgerland Literacy
CAPSA
Cache Food Pantry
Cache High School
Cache Refugee & Immigrant Connection
Logan Family Center
Mountain Crest High School
Somebody's Attic
Stokes Nature Center
Wilson Elementary
Utah Conservation Corps

In Smithfield:

Birch Creek Elementary
Park Elementary
Somebody's Attic
Summit Elementary

Back to School Starts; Volunteers Needed

The 2017-2018 school year begins in Cache County schools on August 23 and in Logan City schools on August 23-24 (depending on grade).

We all know that all Utah schools struggle to have the time and resources to give students the help they need. Volunteers can help cover the shortfall and improve students lives and increase the chance every child will successfully get through each school year.

Here are just some of the ways volunteers can help:

- Act as a classroom helper.
- Mentor or tutor students.
- Help children with special needs.
- Volunteer in a school computer lab.
- Help organize, cater or work at fundraising activities.
- Act as a lunchroom or playground monitor.
- Lend a sympathetic ear to struggling students.

Volunteers can be a real ally for vulnerable students who may not have support at home, or be a native English speaker, or who have food insecurity.

Even a couple of hours a week volunteering in a local school can make a difference. Call us for more details.

School Supplies

If you have a little extra money right now, you might consider helping a local school with supplies that they need, especially as the school year starts. The list that Adams Elementary has on their web site is probably typical of every school in Cache:

Kindergarten: box of Kleenex, Clorox wipes, package of glue sticks, small paper plates, large paper plates, bottle of sanitizer, small prizes, Ziploc lunch bags, Ziploc gallon bags, package of cardstock, package of construction paper, box of crayons, package of pencils, healthy snacks like pretzels, wheat crackers, graham crackers, expo thin dry erase markers, highlighters.

1st grade: box of Kleenex, package of glue sticks, bottle of hand sanitizer, bottle of Elmer's glue, pkg. of pencils, pkg. of Dry-Erase markers 2nd grade: Expo markers,

Kleenex, white or colored card stock, Clorox wipes.

3rd grade: plain spiral notebook, plain 3 prong pocket folder, lined filler paper, Kleenex, black expo dry erase markers, pencils, package of pens, pencil slider case, Ziploc baggies (any size) , pencil top erasers, crayons, glue sticks, student size scissors, hand sanitizer, Clorox wipes, ream of white card stock, ream of colored construction paper.

4th grade: TISSUES, black dry erase markers, Clorox wipes, colored pens, sticky notes... Tissues and Clorox wipes.

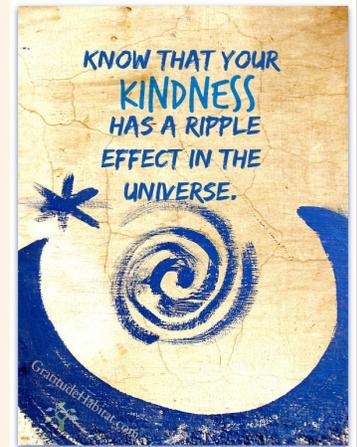
5th grade : glue sticks, pencils, sanitizing wipes, dry erase markers, lined notebook filler paper, highlighter, 1 subject spiral notebooks (2), sandwich size Ziploc baggies, lots of tissues.

Would you consider dropping of any of these items to a local school? Let us know if we can help in getting a donation to a school.

About “Senior” Volunteering

While we were operating under an RSVP grant, one of the requirements was that we accept only those who are 55 or older. This was occasionally a problem for us when someone under this age wanted to join, and we had to suggest they volunteer through another non=profit organization.

We no longer have the 55 or older restriction. While our focus remains helping seniors who wish to volunteer in the community, we welcome anyone who considers him or herself to be at least head towards being a senior.



More Opportunities to Serve

Cache High School

This high school on 1400 North in Logan needs volunteers to help in classrooms, mentoring and tutoring students. They also need volunteers with background/skill in art.

Students at this school want to learn! Their 104 students have an average daily attendance of 91%!

Stokes Nature Center

The Stokes Nature Center needs volunteers to carry out their mission of providing nature education to people of all ages.

Stokes has a strong need for volunteers with a range of experience. Needs include retired educators with natural science backgrounds who can talk to

groups about understanding and appreciating nature, helping with outreach events, and handicrafts.

They need “critter caretakers.” These volunteers can come in any time the center is open and care for native critters. Critters include a snake, a salamander and hummingbirds.

They also need volunteers who can serve as docents at the center welcoming visitors.

You can find out more about volunteering opportunities at their web site: www.logannature.org/ volunteer.

Bridgerland Literacy

Bridgerland Literacy offers free reading and writing tutoring to adult learners who are conversational in English.

Volunteers are matched with a student for one-on-one tutoring in an open, safe, and confidential environment. Tutor training and teaching materials are provided at no cost. By improving literacy skills, individuals can function more efficiently and find more fulfillment in their lives.

They match volunteer tutors with students and provide tutoring materials and a place—usually Bridgerland Applied Technology College—to conduct tutoring sessions. Volunteers meet with an assigned student twice a week for a 1-hour session. Volunteers are asked to make a 6-month commitment.

**Public & School
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