



BACKGROUND

Today's adults aged 50 and older are the healthiest, most active, most financially secure, and best educated in our history. They are part of the largest and fastest growing population of older adults ever. They desire to stay involved, help others, and contribute to their communities, but they want to do it on their own terms.

Retirement is becoming less of an end stage and more of a transition between one chapter of life and the next. Retirees have the freedom to choose what they do and how and when they do it. They look upon retirement not only as a time for leisure, but also a time for meeting new people, learning new things, and pursuing personal goals.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A HURRAH VOLUNTEER

- An active, enthusiastic retiree or fifty-something, sixty-something or beyond.
- Someone who is interested in children and eager to share his or her experiences with them and to assist in their education.
- An individual who wants to "give back" to the community.
- Someone who wants to stay involved, help others, and do something meaningful and enjoyable.
- He or she has practical knowledge, wisdom, and skills acquired from years of experience in the work world, or as a homemaker, teacher, or parent.
- A responsible person who is willing to commit some of his/her free time.

WHY HURRAH IS AN APPEALING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

- Volunteers can tailor activities to their schedule. They can volunteer for an hour or two a week or volunteer for special projects. They control their time commitment.
- Volunteers can establish an intergenerational relationship with young people.
- The HURRAH Program affords volunteers the opportunity to continue learning and enjoy intellectual stimulation.
- Volunteers meet new people, make new friends, and enjoy social interaction.

**HURRAH volunteers are different!
The difference is you!**

The following is a brief skills/experience requirements description of some of our more popular volunteer programs that are currently available in our schools.

MENTORING

Want to make a direct impact on one student? This program will allow you to use your skills/experience to help students better manage their time, organize their studies, and to be more motivated. You may have to do a little “light” tutoring, but more in-depth tutoring is available, if the student requires it.

TUTORING

Have a specific or unique skill or experience you could share with a student? Math, science or computer technology are just a few of the areas where you could make a contribution. You will work one-on-one or with a small group of students at all grade levels who need help in your area of expertise. The people who most enjoy tutoring are those with special or unique interests and skills who prefer to specialize in their area of expertise rather than participate in the more general activities of mentoring.

READERS

Enjoy fine literature? Many of our elementary schools have reading programs where you can share your love of reading, help our students to appreciate good literature, and to improve their vocabulary. The “Give the Gift of Reading program” is one of our most appreciated programs and gives our students a positive role model who is demonstrating the importance of reading. The volunteers who enjoy participating in this program share a love of reading with a love of children.

CLASSROOM PARTICIPATION

If you have a special skill, hobby, or experience you would be willing to share with our students in a classroom, there are opportunities available. We have had guest instructors who have discussed the stock market and another who discussed the art of negotiation. We have also had World War II veterans discuss their real life experiences as part of our curriculum on World War II. This could also include travel or other real life experiences. If you would like to interact with a group of students in your specific area of interest or expertise, this could be the right vehicle for you.

STUDY SKILLS ACADEMY

The Study Skills Academy (SSA), developed as the signature project of the Naperville Education Foundation (NEF), in partnership with District 203, provides critical tutoring skills after school to students who need help outside of the traditional classroom setting. Presently, there is a SSA at each of the 14 elementary schools and 5 junior high schools.

MISCELLANEOUS

This could include administrative support, the availability to accompany our teachers and students on field trips active as laboratory assistance, working on special projects, etc. This might be the right area for people who want to help in some way, but who have scheduling problems or who would just not be comfortable working in any of the previously mentioned programs.

If you have any questions or would like to further discuss the HURRAH Program and how it might fit into your lifestyle, please call Russ Marineau, HURRAH Chairman at 630-420-1029 or the Naperville School District 203 Community Relations Department at 630-548-7872.