YMCA READS!, in conjunction with the Florida Department of Education, is a non-profit program that provides free literacy, mentoring, and tutoring, for Elementary Students. The program is designed to help students below grade level, acquire the necessary skills to continue on, as well as prepare for the FSA.

Is READS! a curriculum based program?

Yes, READS! is a curriculum based program. In order to meet the required needs of the students, the program ensures that students are learning an equivalent or greater subject material through a curriculum called SIPPS.

SIPPS stands for: Systematic Instruction in Phoneme Awareness, Phonics, and Sight Words. This curriculum is a developmental program for Kindergarten through Third grade. It enhances the students phonemic and phonological awareness, the students ability to identify sight words, spell vocabulary words correctly, and comprehensively assess specific elements of a story.

What other academic materials does the READS! Program utilize?

In addition to adapting the SIPPS curriculum, the READS Program utilizes Kidz Lit.

KidzLit: The KidzLit curriculum uses powerful literature and activities to increase students enjoyment of reading emphasizing the following skills; Literacy skills, Written expression, Core Values, Thinking skills, and Connections.

What do students learn in this program?

In READS!, students are learning through a variety of academic and comprehensive learning tools (i.e., SIPPS). These resources teach students how to become both academically knowledgeable and socially aware. In the program, lessons are designed to challenge students ability to think big and dream large.
YMCA READS!

Sponsored by the Florida State Alliance of YMCAs

BECOMING A READS! MENTOR

Who can Volunteer with READS!?

The YMCA READS! Program, is seeking enthusiastic and passionate individuals that are willing to give their time, in becoming mentors to some wonderful kids.

• High school student earn volunteer hours.
• Retired teachers can contribute their educational experiences.
• Individuals seeking to gain a new experience
• Someone who like to make a difference in the life of a student.

As a volunteer/mentor, you will have an important role in shaping the academic future of these student as well as helping to develop his/her self-confidence in an extremely positive way!

The Process to Becoming a READS! Mentor

Volunteers in the READS! Program, must first complete a volunteer application. All volunteers are required to have a background screening. This includes fingerprinting (provided by YMCA), Law Enforcement background check, and be given clearance by the Florida Department of Children and Families.

Volunteer Training

Volunteers will receive initial YMCA mentor training. The trainings cover the YMCA Code of Conduct, Volunteer Expectations, Child Abuse and Neglect, Policies and Procedures, and characteristics/strategies for working with children. Volunteers are supervised at all times by the Program Coordinator and Program Assistant. They will be present to aid with student, mentor, school, and family inquires.

Commitment

Commitment to the READS! Program is very important. We encourage volunteers to work with the program for at least 6 months. We ensure that relationships with students will be built. However, we are aware that for some, other requirements take greater priority.
BECOMING A READS! MENTOR

Flexibility

READS! is a very flexible program.
The program functions 5 days, 17.5 hours a week.
Volunteers are only required to contribute 1 hour per week.
More time given, is the greater rewards received.

For more information, about becoming a READS Volunteer contact:
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West Oaks Elementary
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Cari Cruz
YMCA READS! Coordinator
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