

# Experience. Share it.



NOW IS THE BEST TIME TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Experience Corps members are Older Adults and Boomers who are trained and supported to mentor students in the skills they need to succeed in school and life. Opportunities to serve one to 15 hours a week are available. Those committing to 12 or more hours receive a small stipend.



Call 602.973.2212 or visit [www.makeadifference.org](http://www.makeadifference.org)



Presented by Mesa Community Colleges, Mesa Public Schools and Make A Difference, Experience Corps recruits, trains and supports older adults to serve in 4<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms throughout Mesa. Volunteers will work with students in the classroom to assist with reading and writing and will receive training and ongoing support from school teachers and specialists. Experience Corps members have the option of serving anywhere from one hour a week to fifteen hours a week. Those who serve 10-15 hours a week are eligible to receive a modest stipend and education award. The program will be offered in six schools throughout Mesa and scheduling is flexible to accommodate all volunteers.

### **What is Experience Corps?**

Experience Corps is a national program that engages boomers and older adults in meeting their communities' greatest challenges. Today, in 19 cities across the country, 2,000 Experience Corps members tutor and mentor elementary school students struggling to learn to read. Independent research shows that Experience Corps boosts student academic performance while enhancing the well-being of the Experience Corps members in the process.

### **What's the process of getting involved?**

Volunteers who join the Experience Corps program will submit an application, undergo an interview and background check, and attend training before serving in the classroom. For volunteers serving 4-15 hours a week, this training involves a three-day series of workshops with tools, resources and strategies on how to be effective in the classroom. For volunteers serving less than 4 hours a week, the training will involve a condensed 2 hour workshop and school orientation.

### **What kind of commitment do I need to make?**

The Experience Corps program is flexible to meet your needs and interests as a volunteer. You can serve for as little as one hour a week, or as often as fifteen hours a week, and anything in between! We ask that you commit to one year of service, September through May with the exception of school holidays, so that you can have the greatest impact possible on the students you will be serving.

### **What are the benefits of joining Experience Corps?**

Experience Corps provides a unique service opportunity that not only makes an impact on the schools and children served, but on the volunteers themselves. Research shows that volunteering improves longevity, wellbeing and overall health. Not only will you gain a great sense of accomplishment in your experience, but you'll make new friends along the way. As part of Experience Corps, you have the opportunity to attend monthly workshops, service projects and social gatherings with your team.

### **Where and when can I serve?**

Experience Corps members serve during the school day, in a classroom setting. Depending on the school and participating teachers' schedules, hours may vary. We will work with your schedule and

location preference to find a good fit. Experience Corps will be offered in the following Mesa Public Schools:

- Alma Elementary School, 1313 W Medina
- Kerr Elementary School, 125 E McLellan
- Guerrero Elementary School, 463 S Alma School
- Lehi Elementary School, 2555 N Stapley
- Holmes Elementary School, 948 S Horne

### **. What kinds of things will I do as an Experience Corps member?**

As an Experience Corps member, you will be focused specifically on improving literacy skills among fourth grade students. The types of activities you do will vary from classroom to classroom but will include reading aloud, flash cards, writing prompts and more.

### **How do the students benefit from the program?**

Research shows that students in third and fourth grade who are below reading level will continue to struggle and fall further behind in future grades. You have the opportunity to intervene at this critical age and support students in need of extra attention. The school teachers and reading specialists will give you strategies and activities tailored to the specific needs of the students to make sure you are equipped to make a significant impact. Not only do the students benefit, but the school as a whole benefits from collaborating with talented individuals and building stronger relationships with the greater community.

### **Where do I sign up?**

For more information and to sign up, please contact:

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## **Experience Corps Mesa Promotional Copy**

Promote Experience Corps to Your Networks

This copy is appropriate for web sites or newsletters.

### **Option 1:**

If you're a Baby Boomer or Older Adult and seeking ways to share your valuable experience with your community, Make A Difference, Mesa Community College and Mesa Public Schools invite you to check out Experience Corps Mesa. Experience Corps Mesa engages older adults to help young people meet their potential and increase their reading and writing abilities.

Call 602.973.2212 or visit [www.makeadifference.org](http://www.makeadifference.org) for more information.

### **Option 2:**

Mesa Public Schools, in partnership with Make A Difference and Mesa Community College, has taken an innovative step towards improving their students' opportunity for academic success with a program called Experience Corps Mesa. Boomers and Older Adults serve for one year for one to 15 hours a week as literacy tutors and mentors. Members receive training and those committing to 12 or more hours receive a modest stipend.

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