Springfield School Volunteers

1550 MAIN STREET, 3RD FLOOR
SPRINGFIELD, MA 01103
(413) 787-7100 EXT. 55697
SPRINGFIELDSCHOOLVOLUNTEERS.ORG

SSV FAMILY & SCHOOL GUIDE

ABOUT US

SSV is a non-profit organization that has been matching the resources of the community with the needs of the Springfield Public Schools (SPS) since 1969. In 1979, First Lady Rosalynn Carter selected SSV as a model of the spirit of volunteerism. We have been proudly carrying that torch ever since.

SSV is governed by a board of directors and managed by a staff of five. We are funded by the City of Springfield through a contract with the Springfield Public Schools, as well as by grants and individual gifts. SSV's primary focus is to support positive youth-adult relationships with the goal of helping students reach their highest potential.

OUR MISSION

The mission of Springfield School Volunteers is to promote and facilitate learning-focused community involvement in support of the Springfield Public Schools' goal of ensuring that every child attain a high level of academic achievement.

WHAT WE DO

- Encourage academic excellence
- Foster social and emotional growth
- Promote regular school attendance

SSV is dedicated to the safety of our students and volunteers during this time.

***** All in-school volunteer activity is temporarily suspended. *****

MENTORING

SSV's School-Based Mentoring Program matches students in grades 1-12 with volunteers who serve as positive role models and promote academic achievement and regular school attendance. The goal of the program is improved attitude toward school and social emotional development.

HOW IT WORKS

- SSV recruits, screens and trains volunteers.
- Using information gathered during the screening process, SSV matches students and mentors.
- Volunteers meet one-on-one or in small groups with students to offer guidance, support, and encouragement for at least 30 minutes once a week.
- SSV provides ongoing support and regular check-ins to ensure program is meeting the needs of participants.

REGISTRATION PROCESS & REQUIRED FORMS

- Submit a Student Registration Form
- Submit a Parent Consent (FERPA) Form
- Submit a Family Agreement Form (for remote programming only)
- Confirm assignment details (meeting day, time, and location/Zoom link).

IMPACT

Impact on Participating Students

- 100% graduation rate among 12th graders
- 60% of students improved daily attendance
- 60% of students had fewer incidences of discipline at school.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

SSV's Academic Support Program provides general or subject-specific academic assistance to students. By providing students with the individual attention and encouragement they need, volunteers help them reach their highest potential.

Each year SSV also facilitates the placement of hundreds of college students to help them meet degree or community service requirements.

HOW IT WORKS

- SSV recruits, screens and trains volunteers.
- School or family submits Student Registration form
- Using information gathered during the screening process, SSV matches students and volunteers.
- Volunteers meet one-on-one or in small groups with students for at least 30 minutes twice a week.
- SSV provides ongoing support and regular check-ins to ensure program is meeting the needs of participants.

FORMS

- Student Registration Form
- Parent Consent (FERPA) Form
- Family Agreement Form (for remote programming only).

VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB

SSV's Virtual Book Club program will expose elementary and middle school students to literature from multiple perspectives, and will encourage critical thinking and deeper engagement with the stories being read and discussed. The goal of the program is increased fluency for participating students.

HOW IT WORKS

- SSV recruits, screens and trains volunteers.
- School or family submits Student Registration form.
- Using information gathered during screening process, SSV forms the groups.
- Volunteers meet with students via Zoom for at least 30 minutes per week.
- Sessions will include a combination of reading aloud, discussion and activities.
- SSV provides ongoing support and regular check-ins to ensure program is meeting the needs of participants.

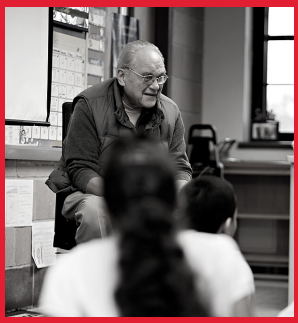
REGISTRATION PROCESS & REQUIRED FORMS

- Submit a Student Registration Form
- Submit a Parent Consent (FERPA) Form
- Submit a Family Agreement Form (for remote programming only)
- Confirm assignment details (meeting day, time, and location/Zoom link).

BENEFITS

- Improved reading fluency.
- Expanded vocabulary.
- Improved comprehension.
- Improved verbal communication.

READ ALOUD



SSV's citywide Read Aloud Program is designed to model fluent reading, instill a love of reading in students and help expand classroom libraries. The program takes place once a month for five months, October through February, and brings approximately 500 volunteers into participating Pre-K through grade 5 classes.

HOW IT WORKS

- SSV's Read Aloud Advisory Committee (RAAC) selects 30 titles annually.
- Using information from schools, SSV orders books and assigns volunteers.
- SSV provides summaries and discussion tips for each title.
- Schools designate a gathering place where volunteers can pick up/review their books and where students come to escort them to their classrooms.
- Volunteers read and discuss the book with their assigned classroom monthly and leave the books to help build the classroom library.

REGISTRATION PROCESS & REQUIRED FORMS

- Schools submit the Read Aloud Information Update Sheet
- Families submit Volunteer Application and CORI if interested in volunteering

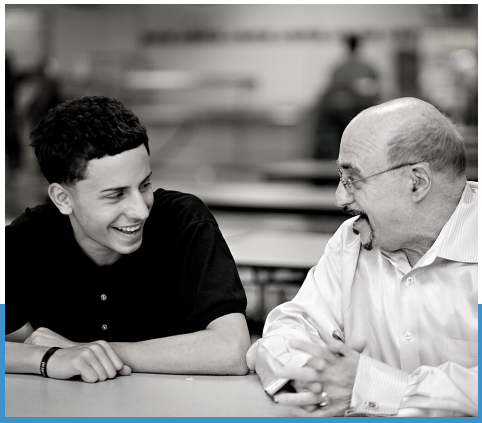
BENEFITS

- Community volunteers model fluent reading and promote recreational reading.
- More than 3,000 books donated to help build classroom libraries.

FORMS

Below are descriptions and links to the forms required to register students for and/or participate in SSV's programs. All forms are PDFs that can be filled and signed digitally. Completed forms can be returned via email to ***volunteer@springfieldpublicschools.com*** *or via US mail to the address on the cover.*

- Volunteer Application - Volunteers indicate interests and availability.
- CORI form - Volunteer authorization to perform Criminal Background check.
- Student Registration Form - School or Family indicates program(s) of interest, specific challenges and student availability to meet with a volunteer.
- Parent Consent (FERPA) Form - Parent/Guardian can indicate what permissions are granted to the program (participation, access to data, use of images, etc.).
- Family Agreement Form - Parent/Guardian agrees to engage and partner with SSV to achieve the maximum benefit to student.



JOIN THE SSV COMMUNITY

STAY IN TOUCH:

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volunteer@springfieldpublicschoosl.com

SOCIAL MEDIA: