

St. Louis Park Public Schools Volunteer Program

Working together to make St. Louis Park a better place to work, live and learn!



Annual Report 2012-2013

The dollar value for volunteer service for 2012-2013, as determined by the Independent Sector (www.independentsector.org), is \$22.14 per hour. The estimated value of volunteer services channeled through the St. Louis Park Public Schools Volunteer Program is \$232,470 (660 volunteers with a total of 10,500 hours x \$22.14).



- Over 660 volunteers
- Over 10,500 hours
- Serving over 30 programs and special events
- Over \$232,470 worth of service

“It has been an honor to have worked with hundreds of outstanding, caring volunteers. They are truly amazing, and it has been a privilege to place volunteers with skilled and dedicated staff who utilize the volunteers’ talents to enrich classrooms and city services. From beautiful flowers in a neighborhood garden to first graders who flock to read with their classroom volunteer, you can see the difference volunteers make in our community.”

Sarah Krzesowiak
Volunteer Coordinator
Retired December, 2012

School and City volunteer programs create unique identities, separate offices

For many years, the City of St. Louis Park and St. Louis Park Public Schools partnered to facilitate volunteer recruitment, training and coordinating under one office, headed by Sarah Krzesowiak, who retired December 31 after more than 30 years of service.

Beginning January 1, 2013, Linda Asche, Community Education’s Adult Enrichment coordinator, assumed responsibilities for the school district portion of the volunteer program. Program assistant Kathleen Huyck continues to be on staff in the school district volunteer office.

Laura Ingebrigtsen is the volunteer coordinator for the City of St. Louis Park.

The data in this report reflects school district volunteers from the 2012-13 school year as well as volunteers for City events and activities from July 1-Dec. 31, 2012.

Westwood Hills Nature Center Halloween Party

Over 150 students as well as adults from the community participated in the Westwood Hills Nature Center Halloween Party in October, 2012. Volunteers assist with set-up and post-party clean up. On party nights, they run the games, serve refreshments and act as costume characters.



Westwood Hills Nature Center

Volunteers help the naturalists teach visiting classrooms and children's groups, work on maintenance projects, take care of the captive animals, do library maintenance, and staff the front desk between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. five days a week. These wonderful volunteers donated a total of 612 hours between July and December of 2012.

Volunteer Hours

Front Desk coverage - 205

Animal Care - 212

Wood Round Prep - 4

Bee Keeper - 1

Maintenance - 115

Program Aide - 76

TOTAL - 613



Student Election Judges

48 St. Louis Park High School students were recruited to help at voting sites throughout the city in November. These students attended training sessions and assisted the regular election judges with setting-up voting booths, checking the voter ID lists, directing voters to the correct polling station if they are at the wrong place and all the other tasks that make our democratic election system work.

City Volunteer Office Contact Information

City of St. Louis Park Volunteer Office

Laura Ingebrigtsen
Program Coordinator
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Experience LIFE in the Park

Laura Ingebrigtsen was born and raised in Minnesota, and attended the University of Minnesota. She has 5 years experience in Human Resources at Target Corporation. She then took a short break to teach abroad in Beijing, China with her fiancé. She is excited to use her experience in recruitment and staffing to directly impact St. Louis Park's community through volunteerism.





Classroom Volunteers

Volunteers help in the classroom by providing enrichment and/or reinforcement of the classroom curriculum. They assist with a variety of activities in the classroom, once or twice a week, as directed by the teachers.

Volunteers - 39
Classrooms - 35
Students - 875
Hours - 3,670

History Day Volunteers

In December, over 350 Sr. High School students prepared projects for History Day. 44 volunteers were recruited through the volunteer office to serve as judges, donating 132 hours of their time. Along with parents and staff, the volunteers spent time talking with the students about their projects and then evaluating and ranking students' projects.

English Language Learners (ELL) Volunteers

Volunteers help students practice their English speaking and writing skills. They also assist students as they learn about American culture and customs.

Volunteers - 3
Students - 12
Hours - 163

Susan Lindgren Elementary International Baccalaureate (IB) Project

In April and May, community and staff volunteers met weekly with groups of students to help them with their project research, organization and presentations for their 5th grade IB project. The Volunteer Office assisted the project coordinator with volunteer recruitment.

Media Center Inventory

Fifteen volunteers donated 46 hours to help the High School and Middle School Media Center staff conduct inventories. Volunteers scanned and recorded over 30,000 items.

Media Center Volunteers

Volunteers - 11
Hours - 461

"The work of the volunteers allows us to concentrate on student and staff needs. This is greatly appreciated."

Nikki Toal, Media Specialist
Susan Lindgren Elementary





Picture Person/ Art Appreciation

Trained volunteers teach six art appreciation lessons a year to children in grades K-6. "Cultural Visions" was the focus of this year's curriculum. (At PSI, the amity scholars teach the lessons.)
Volunteers - 39
Classrooms - 70
Students - 1,750
Presentations - 420
Hours - 840

Math Program Volunteers

Volunteers work with students grades 2-12 in their classrooms or as tutors in the high school math lab.
Volunteers - 23
Students - 418
Hours - 78

"My volunteer is one of a kind – you couldn't find anyone like him if you tried. He has a generous heart, is kind and has a lot of patience whether working with students in small groups or one-on-one."

Cindy Blumer, 5th grade teacher
Susan Lindgren Elementary

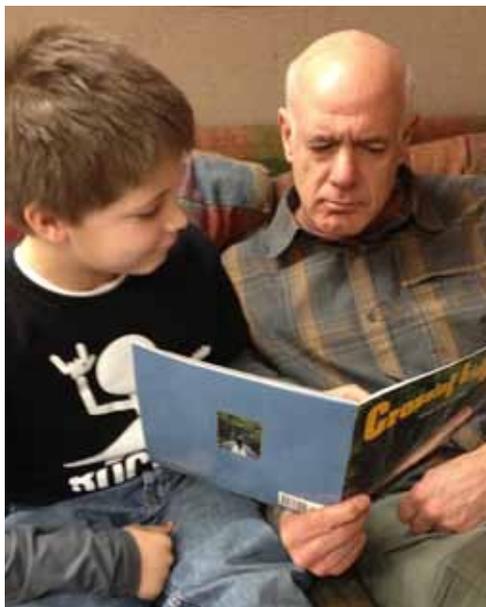


"Without our wonderful volunteers, we couldn't provide the 1:1 reading support necessary to help our struggling readers. They brighten our students' day!"

Midi Hansen
Read 180 teacher
Aquila Elementary

"Community volunteers provide my Read 180 students with valuable one-on-one reading time. I appreciate their time and involvement in my classroom."

Robyn Poythress
Read 180 teacher
SLP Middle School



Read 180

Volunteers assist with the Read 180 Program, a specialized program for students who read below grade level. Volunteers provide needed one on one attention and feedback for students.
Volunteers - 44
Classrooms - 17
Students - 255
Hours - 2,088



Classroom Speakers

Volunteers enriched the classroom curriculum by sharing their hobbies, careers or special interests with students. Many of the talks are given by city staff, including the Fire, Police, Forestry and Water Departments.

Speakers - 25
Presentations - 37
Hours - 24

Cargill Volunteers

This spring, Cargill partnered with our district to support education and the environment. Over 80 volunteers worked on a number of projects including the Middle School Days of Service, Track & Field Day at Peter Hobart, playground clean up at Lenox and classroom projects on the environment at Peter Hobart and Aquila.



“The Cargill volunteers were amazing. They were knowledgeable, patient, enthusiastic, involved. Those are just a few of the adjectives, plus they had a sense of humor. We got things done in one hour that would have normally have taken me at least 4 +hours.”

Kathleen Kirlin
4th grade teacher
Aquila Elementary

Breck School Student Volunteers and Pi Beta Phi Collegians from the University of Minnesota

20 students from Breck School volunteered one hour a week for 14 weeks in one of our elementary school classrooms. In addition, 19 students from the Pi Beta Phi sorority at the U of M read with the Kids Place students at Aquila elementary school twice a week for four weeks in March and April. Together, these students donated over 400 hours of their time.

“I am so grateful for the level of volunteerism in our classroom. These individuals make personal connections with students and they afford the kids the luxury of extra individual academic attention. Our students light up each week when our volunteers walk through the door.”

Suzanne Knauf
2nd grade teacher
Peter Hobart Elementary

Band/Orchestra Volunteers

Community volunteers bring their instruments and join the band class for regular practice.

Volunteers – 4
Students – 146
Hours - 173

Clerical Volunteers

Four generous volunteers spent 39 hours on clerical projects in addition to their other assignments. They copied and collated lesson plans for Gifted & Talented and helped teachers out with various jobs.

Kids' Place Student Volunteers

Students ages 14 and older volunteer during the school year and over the summer with the St. Louis Park Community Education Kids Place Program. 7 students volunteered over 600 hours.

St. Louis Park High School Community Service Class

Students in the Community Service classes at the High School, under the direction of their teacher, Sophia Ross, volunteer in the elementary classrooms 2-4 times a week.

Judges for the High School DECA Competition

Volunteers are placed with the high school business program to serve as judges at the West Metro DECA Competition. Volunteer DECA judges role-play business scenarios with high school students who have prepared business plans and practiced for interviews. This year, 31 volunteers contributed 136 hours.

BRAVO Music Appreciation

Classical music is the focus of the BRAVO! Program for grades 1-3. It is structured much like the art appreciation program. A music background is a requirement for BRAVO! volunteers. They are trained and scheduled into assigned classrooms where they teach six lessons a year on classical music and composers.

Volunteers - 4
Classrooms - 7
Students - 175
Presentations - 49
Hours - 53

Literacy 1st

Volunteers are trained to work with beginning readers. They spend 1-1 ½ hours a week in a first or second grade classroom helping during literacy time.

Volunteers - 37
Classrooms - 28
Students - 700
Hours - 1,781



Volunteer Program Advisory Council

Joan Monicatti
Sharyll Smith
Yvonne Thomas
Sarah Zubke

Kathleen Huyck
Program Assistant

Linda Asche
Program Coordinator

St. Louis Park Public Schools Volunteer Program

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