

# ***Volunteering***

*Many hands make light work*



## **Head Start of Lane County**

*ENSURING THAT OUR YOUNGEST CHILDREN HAVE A SOLID  
FOUNDATION FOR LIFE*

*A birth to four early childhood education program*

## **Head Start of Lane County**

Head Start of Lane County (HSOLC) is a birth to four program providing Head Start (HS) / Early Head Start (EHS) preschool services in Lane County. HSOLC is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) whose mission is *ensuring that our youngest children have a solid foundation for life*. The agency services over 1,000 low income children and families from the coast to the mountains, covering over 4,620 square miles. HSOLC supports 14 sites and employs over 200 people.

The Federal Office of Head Start requires all Head Start /Early Head Start agencies to follow Performance Standards. How each agency meets the Performance Standards is individualized to the need and resources of that community. The Performance Standard related to volunteering is 1306.22(a) (b)

- (a) Head Start programs must use volunteers to the fullest extent possible. Head Start grantees must develop and implement a system to actively recruit, train and utilize volunteers in the program.
  
- (b) Special efforts must be made to have volunteer participation especially parents in the classroom and during group socialization days.

## Does HS/EHS Make a Difference?

YES! HSOLC has helped over 1,000 children and families annually prepare for public school with growth in all school readiness domains. There are 10 school readiness domains; each has a place for volunteers:

1. **Approaches to Learning** are skills in completing a challenging or frustrating task, following directions, making mistakes and working as a group.
2. **Creative Arts and expression** can be in the form of dance, music and play.
3. **Literacy skills** in learning to listen, understanding what is seen or heard and expressing one self.
4. **Math skills**, like adding/subtracting, time, measuring.
5. **Science** is simple – it's called curiosity, exploration and asking questions. It's active engagement in observing, exploring, and experimenting.
6. **Physical health** means making right food choices, and having an active life style.
7. **Social emotional** learning is about friendships and self-control. It's learning to cooperate.
8. **Social studies** is learning about family history, sharing stories about places and people.
9. **Logic and reasoning** is asking questions to help come to own conclusion - right or wrong (unless it is unsafe)
10. **Language development** is understanding what is said and having conversations. It is also developing English language when it is not the first language spoken at home.

### **What are the Volunteer Opportunities?**

Volunteer opportunities can be found in the classrooms, special projects, gardening and more. Matching a volunteer's skills, interest and professional growth is important when matching volunteers to openings/needs.

### **Is Training Provided?**

Volunteers receive orientation and training on the expectations of being a HSOLC volunteer. Depending on topic and available seating, volunteers may attend staff trainings.

### **Are There Costs, Will I Need Immunizations?**

Volunteers are required to enroll in the Child Care Division Criminal History Registry. Cost can range from \$3.00 to \$80.00. There are no other costs or immunization requirements.

### **What is the Time Commitment?**

Volunteers keep a regular schedule as much as possible, Most shifts are 1-3 hours to optimize the benefits for children and occur during regular business hours, Monday-Friday. A volunteer's hours will be fixed: same place, time, day of week. However, depending on the volunteer position, time commitment can vary. The Part Day program follows the public school calendar, nine months, Monday-Thursday. Full Day and Early Head Start operate year round, five days a week with extended care hours.

### **Who Do I Call if Absent?**

Volunteers should contact the assigned supervisor or the Volunteer Coordinator (541-747-2425) when absent for any reason.

### **If I Have a Problem or Issue, Who do I Speak With?**

Volunteers are to contact the onsite supervisor. If unable to resolve or reach the onsite supervisor, the volunteer will contact the Regional Manager for that site. The Volunteer Coordinator is also available at 541-747-2425.

### **What do I do if I Want to Change my Placement or Volunteer Position?**

Contact the Volunteer Coordinator (541-747-2425) to discuss placement options and other changes to your volunteer assignment.

### **At the End of my Placement can I Request a Letter of Acknowledgement?**

Volunteers who have left the agency in good standing after 120 volunteer hours (3 hrs x 40 days = 120 hours) may ask for a letter of acknowledgement from the site supervisor.

## **Interested in Being a Head Start SEEKER?**

A SEEKER is a volunteer seeking a possible career in Head Start/Early Head Start. SEEKERS stands for *Specialized Education Efforts Keep Education Running Smoothly*

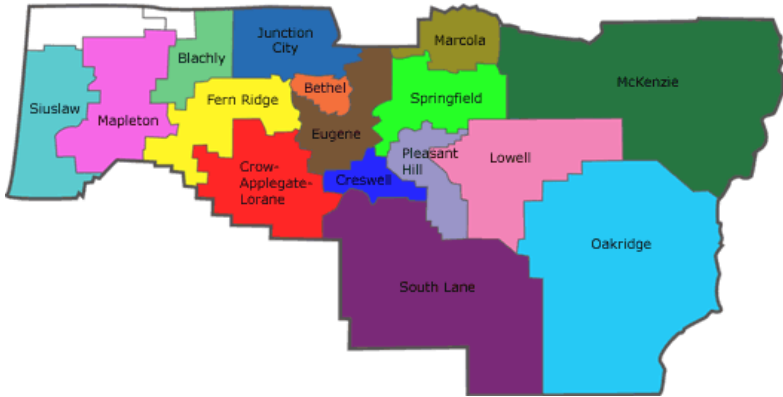
This volunteer must be willing to make a time commitment and be willing to attend weekly trainings, and be assigned to Head Start/Early Head Start classroom.

Upon completion of the SEEKERS program, you may apply for substitute Associate Teacher positions as you consider continuing your higher education towards a BA Degree.

Contact the Volunteer Coordinator for more information about being a SEEKER Volunteer. Enrollment opens in October, classes start in November.



# Head Start of Lane County Locations



<i>Eugene</i>	<i>Springfield</i>	<i>South Lane</i>	<i>Rural</i>
Fairfield	Brattain	Delight Valley	Florence
Lane Community College	Main St		Junction City
Howard	The Park		Oakridge
Ross Lane	Village		
U of O			
Whiteaker			

Head Start of Lane County volunteers build our organizational strength and enrich the sense of community ownership. Children benefit from volunteers being in the classroom, sharing stories, reading to them, tending the garden and sharing smiles and laughter.

Head Start of Lane County values the time and energy given by volunteers. As of July 2011, over 10,000 volunteer hours, worth \$140,687,000 has been given to support the children and families in Lane County.

Contact the Volunteer Coordinator for more information or visit the Head Start of Lane County web site for volunteer opportunities.



HEAD START of LANE COUNTY

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<http://www.hsolc.org>