

NAU Southeastern Arizona RSVP Program

2014-2015

Arizona

Arizona Legislative Districts 5, 25, 30

PROGRAM FAST FACTS

Congressional District(s): 2, 3
State Legislative District(s): 5, 25, 39
Service Area by County/City: Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties
Project Federal Share: \$47,956
Project Local Match: \$13,030
Community Volunteers Recruited: 5

Community Need

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, two thirds or more of Arizona fourth graders are not grade level proficient in reading, writing, math, or science. As of 2007, 10% of Arizona students ages 6 to 17 had to repeat one or more grades. In 2012, KIDS COUNT ranked Arizona 46th out of the nation's 50 states for education. Fifty-one percent of Arizona's children ages 3-5 are not enrolled in nursery school, preschool, or kindergarten. RSVP volunteers will serve in head start centers and schools as tutors and mentors to children.

National Priority Area: Education

- 75% of children will improve in their literacy or math performance
- 65% of children will demonstrate gains in school readiness in terms of social or emotional development.



Program Activities

Primarily, RSVP volunteers will serve in Head Start centers and K-12 schools as tutors and mentors to children. Volunteers will assist children in preparing for school readiness and in improving their math and literacy skills. RSVP volunteers will also serve as companions to homebound seniors, serve in food banks and other non-profits to increase food security in Southeastern Arizona, improve trails and waterways in the area's unique ecosystem, and serve with other non-profits in the region.

Program Impact

NAU's Civic Service Institute was awarded the RSVP Grant for Southeastern Arizona in the spring of 2013 and it officially began on July 1, 2013.

The primary focus area is Education, with the goal of placing 20 RSVP volunteers in ten K-12 schools to tutor 300 students with special or exceptional needs. We anticipate that 75% of students will have improved academic performance in literacy and/or math. RSVP will also place an additional 20 volunteers in ten Head Start centers to work with another 300 students. We anticipate that 65% of these children will demonstrate gains in school readiness in terms of social/emotional development.

Volunteers will also be engaged in serving at food banks by boxing and giving out food to clients in need of emergency food. We anticipate 90% of clients will report increased food security as a result of their receiving services from the food banks. RSVP volunteers will provide companionship through friendly visiting and transportation to homebound older and/or disabled adults. An annual survey will be distributed to clients with an expected 90% of those clients reporting have increased social support because of their RSVP companion.

RSVP volunteers will also be engaged in improving approximately 60 miles of trails and 15 miles of waterways through their participation with local environmental non-profits.

Mission

The Civic Service Institute at NAU educates and engages Arizonans in service and volunteerism.

Vision

CSI provides the largest, most diverse and effective pool of volunteers to meet the needs of communities and neighborhoods throughout Arizona.



History

The Civic Service Institute (CSI) @ NAU was established in July 2009 with the merging of the Northern Arizona Regional Gerontology Institute (NARGI) and the Institute for Future Workforce Development. Programs under the institute include the Foster Grandparent, Senior Companion and RSVP Programs as well as Youth in Action AmeriCorps and Project G.I.V.E., NAU's student volunteer program. Our goal is to incorporate all streams of National Service as well as promoting service learning and community involvement with NAU students and the general public.

RSVP

Lead With Experience

Partnerships

Current partnerships include:

- Carmichael Elementary School (Sierra Vista Unified School District)
- Douglas Unified School District
- SEAGO Area Agency on Aging

Other

NAU's Civic Service Institute, and its preceding institutes, has been successfully managing Senior Corps Programs since 1985. The RSVP of Southeastern Arizona grant is an exciting opportunity to expand our services into additional counties and create new and interesting volunteer opportunities for adults 55 and older residing in Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz counties.

In addition to recruiting and placing volunteers to serve in non-profits throughout the four counties, RSVP will offer volunteers opportunities to participate in National Days of Service events and one-time/special events. These occasions will not only expand their ability to be engaged in their communities but will also elevate the RSVP Program and help the program gain name recognition.

