



HISTORICAL SOCIETY *of* WASHINGTON, D.C.

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DAY OF SERVICE BRINGS READING PARTNERS AND AMERICORPS TO OPEN UP D.C. HISTORY

WASHINGTON, DC: Fifty volunteers from Reading Partners and AmeriCorps will flood the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. for a day of service designed to make D.C. History materials more accessible to local students.

On August 22 teams of twelve will label biographical materials on local Washingtonians and generate resource lists to guide the approximately 200 students who visit each year to the rich holdings of the acclaimed Kiplinger Research Library. The day of service also includes an overview of the educational offerings at the Historical Society so that volunteers can connect students at Reading Partners with Historical Society resources.

Each year, thanks to grants and donations, students visit the Historical Society to examine 19th-century maps, diaries from local residents, photographs, and more. These hands-on interactions with the collection spark deeper conversations about D.C.'s development and future.

"The missions of Reading Partners and the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. clearly dovetail when it comes to creating learning opportunities for students," said Library and Collections Director Anne McDonough. "As the mom of a son in a DC Title 1 school, and with a small staff that relies very heavily on volunteer efforts, I can't think of a better way to start to harness the power of both groups than to join together on a day of service."

Reading Partners is a national nonprofit that collaborates with community volunteers and local public schools in Washington, D.C. to equip students with the foundational skills they need to be able to read at grade level by fourth grade. The early literacy organization has been providing volunteer-led, individualized reading support to students in under-resourced public elementary schools since 1999. With the dedication of more than 14,000 volunteer tutors in D.C. and across the United States, Reading Partners' volunteers are helping more than 10,000 students make the all-important shift from learning to read to reading to learn.

AmeriCorps has been a key partner of Reading Partners by providing the majority of support staff for reading centers. Working with Reading Partners gives AmeriCorps members direct experience in the educational nonprofit sector. AmeriCorps members then graduate to various career paths, including teaching and education policy, law and public policy, and nonprofit administration.

The Historical Society offers programs throughout the year encouraging the next generation of D.C. historians. To support educational programming at the Historical Society and learn more visit dchistory.org.

About the Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

The Historical Society of Washington, D.C., is a community-supported educational and research organization that collects, interprets, and shares the history of our nation's capital. Founded in 1894, the Historical Society serves a diverse audience through its collections, public programs, exhibitions, and publications. The Historical Society's galleries and research library are located in the historic Carnegie Library at Mt. Vernon Square, 801 K Street NW, and are open Tuesday through Friday, 10 am-4 pm. ###