

Providing Ongoing Support

Transcript for Video 1

Note: Some dialog edited for clarity.

[AmeriCorps member Jeff Scott greets parents and students coming for Family Reading Night at Joseph Gale Elementary School in Forest Grove, Oregon.]

Jeff (to child): How are you?

Child: Good.

Parent (to Jeff): Yeah, you did a play I came to watch.

Jeff: Yes, yes.

Narrator (speaking over footage of Jeff greeting parents and children and then speaking to the audience): It's Family Reading Night at Joseph Gale, and the turnout is overwhelming, due largely to the outreach efforts of AmeriCorps member Jeff Scott.

Jeff (to audience): Each corner's got a station on it. You'll have about probably 8 or 9 minutes at each station. Each station has a different topic.

Jeff (to camera): The AmeriCorps position gave me an opportunity to be around youth. Also with the families of the youth in a very humble setting in which we would work to provide mentoring [and] tutoring skills. I really wanted the small-group aspect. I wanted to be a part of just a few kids [lives and] watch them grow through a whole year and see the changes.

Narrator: Jeff knew he wanted to work with young people, and AmeriCorps offered him that opportunity. What has made Jeff a really effective tutor is the rich and varied training he received upfront and throughout his service year.

Teacher (to camera): And the first thing the member actually observes is watching us give an assessment so that the member knows exactly what a child does when they read, why they do it, and what we are looking for. There are very specific strategies a child needs to become a reader.

Jeff (speaks over footage of him talking to two mentor teachers): My mentor teachers help in the planning through correcting plans that I've already made. They have a keen eye for picking out what's going to work and what's not going to work, and also timeframe.

Teacher (to camera): A person can't go into an occupation and have no training and expect to be successful. And the same is true of an AmeriCorps member. They play a very critical role. Our programs are very specific, very fine-tuned, and very important to the school. And for a member to be successful they have to have training. They have to know what they need to do.

Teacher (to group of tutors): And we had talked last time about bringing back some of our goal-setting, and some of our visioning from the beginning of the year and what we had done earlier.

Narrator (speaks over footage of teacher talking to group of tutors): Jeff and other national service members also benefit from a community partnership such as this one at Pacific University, where skill development for tutors is combined with graduate-level program credit.

Teacher (to camera): We meet on a weekly basis for what we call our team meetings. Generally half of that time is our graduate-level class that we have through Pacific University. And then we do team meeting time. It's a time for us to network and to talk about how things are going in our sites. To troubleshoot if we need to. To share our successes. To rally some troops sometimes for different events that are going on.