

Energy Express

...where breakfast, lunch, and learning don't take a summer break!

We Need Volunteers.....

Energy Express is a six week, summer literacy program that offers rural and low-income children a safe, fun learning environment. The average child gained 5 months in broad reading achievement. Children also receive two nutritious, family-style meals every day. Volunteers help provide positive role models for the children of Energy Express.

Who: Any person age 13 or over with an interest in helping children can volunteer at Energy Express.

When: Energy Express volunteers are needed Monday through Friday from June 19, 2017 – July 29, 2017 with the exception of West Virginia Day observed on June 20, 2017 and Independence Day holiday observed on July 4, 2017. Volunteering is very flexible, as volunteers can choose to help one hour, one day, one week, or every day. Any amount of time is appreciated.

Where: Energy Express will be held at Mylan Park Elementary, Mason-Dixon Elementary, and Skyview Elementary. Volunteers are needed at both sites, which will have approximately 32 child participants each.

What: Although there are many different tasks that Energy Express volunteers can help with, the main role of volunteers is to ensure each child participant receives 20 minutes of one-on-one reading every day. For this task, volunteers will be trained and commit to a privacy policy and a volunteer contract.

In addition to one-on-one reading, volunteers can read aloud to a small group of children, listen to a child read, or help children with journaling and book-based art activities. Volunteers can also help with clerical duties (answering phones, copying), sorting objects in the supply room, assisting with non-competitive recreation, setting up tables for family-style meals, cleaning up after children leave, or assisting with special activities such as the open house or the community service projects.

Remember, volunteers can help with any and all of these activities or just one specific activity. If you are thinking of volunteering, but have a specific area you would like to help with, please let us know. We will make sure you are helping with an area you are excited about.

How: For volunteer opportunities, call the WVU Monongalia County Extension Service at 304-291-7201 or email Becca Fint-Clark at Becca.Fint-Clark@mail.wvu.edu



Found Object Donations Now Being Accepted



The Monongalia County Energy Express Program is currently seeking donations of found objects to be utilized at Energy Express sites this summer. Donations will be accepted between now and June 9th at the WVU Monongalia County Extension Office in Westover. Found objects are used to create big art projects at the sites- they spark creativity and teach children that they do not need fancy art and craft supplies to create something amazing.

Here are the types of items we are looking for:

- Foam egg cartons – for paint containers/palette
- Paper bags (all sizes) for masks, personal storage, sculpture
- Paper towel tubes for sculpture, cardboard box construction
- Large appliance boxes – private reading spots, buildings, cars, castles
- Wallpaper sample books – for decorating book covers, collage
- Magazines with lots of pictures – collage, illustrations—appropriate titles
- Packing material (foam peanuts or shredded paper) – collage, sculpture
- Paper plates
- Fabric scraps for costumes, art collages, and sculptures
- Empty cereal, cracker, shoe boxes – book covers
- Newspapers – preparing spaces for making art, stuffing paper bag sculpture
- Containers (cardboard containers, plastic cottage cheese or yogurt containers, margarine bins) –for all kinds of storage, drums, musical rattles
- Wrapping paper, freezer paper, or butcher paper-drawing, painting, collage
- Cotton balls – used to blend chalk drawings, collage
- Feathers – used to paint, collage, sculpture
- Sand – sand painting, casting plaster of Paris
- String, thread, yarn, spools – mobiles, collage, spools for puppets or sculpture
- Textured fabrics and other materials (wool, leather, silk, netting, flannel, plastic, bark, velvet, sandpaper, screening) – collage, costume making, puppets
- Clothesline and clothespins – to create display/drying area
- Socks and pantyhose – puppets
- Foam meat trays (disinfect with water and bleach!) – palettes for painting
- Plastic rings from soft drink packs – bubble making, collage
- Flour – papier-mâché
- Shower curtains or old sheets – drop cloths
- Plastic buckets with lids – for storing items
- Plastic grocery bags
- Wood scraps
- Buttons and beads – jewelry making for costumes, collage, sculpture, puppets
- Used file folders – bookmaking, portfolios