

Loads of Learning GNV: Information for Volunteers

Overview: Loads of Learning GNV is a program through which volunteers facilitate storytimes and other learning activities within Gainesville laundromats.

The main goal is to facilitate family empowered literacy and learning in public spaces by using local businesses (laundromats) as sites to host age-appropriate books and literacy activities for children and families in low-income, underserved areas of Gainesville.

This program is based on the “Read, Play, Learn Spaces” kits developed by the Laundry Cares Foundation which have been installed in communities across the country. What sets the initiative in Gainesville apart from other communities using the Read, Play, Learn Space kits is the number of community partners interested in collaborating to create and implement programming at the participating laundromats.

Participating Partner Organizations:

The Loads of Learning GNV program is a partnership-based effort supported by:

- City of Gainesville
- Episcopal Children's Services
- Alachua County Library District
- United Way of North Central Florida
- Laundry Cares Foundation
- Too Small to Fail Foundation
- Local laundromat owners

Locations:

- WASH KING: 210 NE 16th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601
- DJ LAUNDRY: 318 SW 16th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601
- DJ LAUNDRY: 2308 SE Hawthorne Rd, Gainesville, FL, 32641
- FRESH LAUNDRY AND CAFÉ: 3830 SW 13th St, Gainesville, FL 32608

Volunteer Requirements:

- Individuals must be at least in the 11th grade to serve as a volunteer.
- All prospective volunteers will be required to pass a background screening prior to participating in the program. The background screening process will be administered by the United Way of North Central Florida's ReadingPals Program.
- Volunteers will be required to attend a Volunteer Training Workshop before participating in the program. The training curriculum is developed and delivered by Alachua County Librarians.

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Volunteer Training Workshop:

All volunteers must attend a training workshops prior to participating.

Trainings are scheduled on an as-needed basis, based on the interest of new volunteers joining the program.

Program Schedule:

Each location will offer 90 minutes of programming at least one-day per week. We aim to offer programming throughout the full year, depending on volunteer availability. The tentative schedule is set as the following:

Location	Date
FRESH LAUNDRY & CAFÉ: 3830 SW 13th St	Tuesday Evenings Saturday Mornings
DJ LAUNDRY: 2308-B SE Hawthorne Rd	Tuesday Evenings Saturday Mornings
DJ LAUNDRY: 318 SW 16th Ave	Wednesday Evenings Saturday Mornings
WASH KING: 210 NE 16th Ave	Wednesday Evenings Saturday Mornings

Volunteers will select at least one location and are asked to participate for at least 3 months at that same location(s) each week.

Volunteers may provide programming alone at times, if another volunteer is not available for the same timeslot. We strive to have more than one volunteer at each site for all programming sessions.

[Register Here:](https://tinyurl.com/LoadsofLearningGNV)

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Additional Information:

- As possible per volunteer availability, volunteers will work in teams of 2-3 individuals assigned to the same location. When possible, at least one member of the volunteer team should have a background / education in education or early-literacy.
- One member of each volunteer team will be responsible for tracking participation / attendance during the programming sessions. A printed and digital form will be provided for the volunteer to complete each week.
- An optional weekly check-in meeting for volunteers will be hosted by the Volunteer Coordinator (staff from Episcopal Children Services). While these meetings will be optional for volunteers, they will be highly encouraged because they can help address any challenges that arise during program implementation and make improvements in a timely fashion.
- Volunteers may choose to participate at more than one location if they desire to be involved more frequently than once per week.
- Volunteers may choose to participate beyond the 3 month minimum.
- Only one training per year is required for volunteers. If more than one year has passed since participating, a volunteer will be asked to repeat the training session as a refresher.

Volunteer Registration:

If you are interested in volunteering for the Loads of Learning GNV program, please complete the registration form linked here and you will be contacted by a member of the program team.

[Register Here:](https://tinyurl.com/LoadsofLearningGNV)

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