

W.I.S.E. Guide

THE WILKES INITIATIVE FOR STUDENT ENGAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

Written by: Monica Morrison (AmeriCorps VISTA)

WHAT'S NEW IN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

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“ Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world indeed. It is the only thing that ever has. ”

~ Margaret Mead



WILKES INITIATIVE FOR STUDENT ENGAGEMENT
AT WILKES UNIVERSITY

SEPTEMBER DATES

Sept. 1st Club Day

Sept. 5th Labor Day

Sept. 6th National Read a Book Day

Sept. 7th National Day of Service

Sept. 8th Knowledge & Nuggets

Sept. 13th Blood Drive

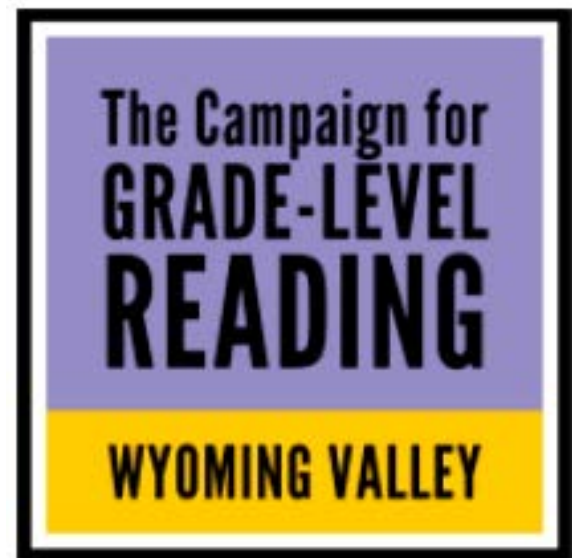
Sept. 17th Family Day

Sept. 20th National Voter Registration

ONGOING BOOK DRIVE

LITERACY CAMPAIGN

- Support childhood literacy and give the gift of reading to the youth of Wilkes-Barre area.
- Donate new or used children's books to the Office of Civic Engagement.
- At the end of the school year, books will be gifted to our Reading Buddies children in the Wilkes-Barre area in support of the United Way Annual Children's Book Drive.



AMERICORPS VISTA PROGRAM

Monica Morrison, VISTA Year Two



What is the AmeriCorps VISTA program?

- The AmeriCorps is a federal agency launched in 1993 to fight our country's most pressing challenges through national service and volunteering. A VISTA commits a full year of service working to eradicate poverty through capacity building and community outreach.

What is the mission of the AmeriCorps VISTA Program?

- "To improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering."

What does the AmeriCorps VISTA do at Wilkes University?

- Monica Morrison will continue as the VISTA for the 2022-2023 school year and see her project to completion. Her project focuses on enhancing primary-level reading skills for children in the Wilkes-Barre area which is carried out through the Reading Buddies program.

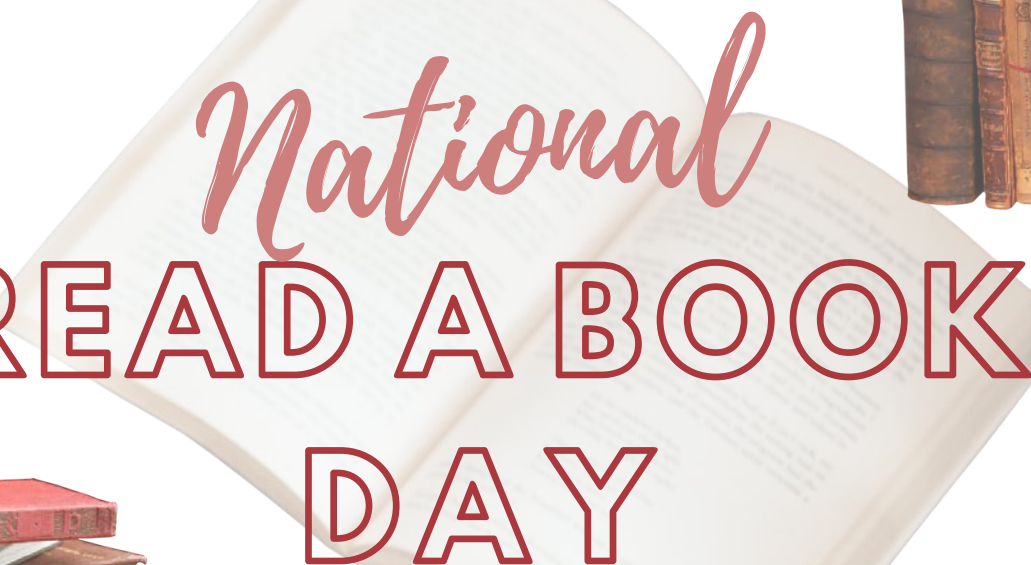
What is the goal of the Reading Buddy Program?

- The Reading Buddies program aims to build capacity by recruiting college students as paid tutors. Tutors seek to help children improve literacy skills, develop friendships, and promote self-efficacy through enriching tutoring activities. Reading Buddies hopes to encourage a love for literacy among the youth by presenting reading and writing in an enjoyable, rewarding, and engaging manner. For more information, feel free to send Monica an email at monica.morrison1@wilkes.edu.

SEPTEMBER 1ST CLUB DAY

Civic Engagement at Club Day

This year Club Day takes place on the first Thursday of the school year, September 1st, 2022. AmeriCorps VISTA, Reading Buddies, and the Office of Civic Engagement will be present and ready to recruit students of all majors, years, sports teams, etc. to become introduced to community service and volunteer opportunities. This year we hope to obtain more students than ever to become involved with community service and make a change in our local neighborhoods. Make sure to stop by our tables to sign up for more information and a special treat on us!



National
**READ A BOOK
DAY**

SEPTEMBER 6, 2022



9/11 NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

Wednesday, September 7th, 2022

The Office of Civic Engagement is looking for a few students, athletes, staff, faculty, or other members of the Wilkes community to join us for a few hours of service cleanup for a Day of Service in honor of 9/11 at The Lands at Hillside Farms on Wednesday, September 7th from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Transportation will be provided. Sign up with the quick google form below or email monica.morrison1@wilkes.edu if interested in volunteering for the day!

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME FOR A DAY!



Serve this 9/11 Day!

Join us for a few hours of service cleanup at our local Hillside Farms. End the day with ice cream and visit the animals!

Wednesday, September 7th, 2022

11:00am to 1:00pm

Transportation provided

Contact monica.morrison1@wilkes.edu to sign up.

Hillside Day of Service Volunteer Sign-Up

When: Wednesday, September 7 from
11:00am to 1:00pm
(Transportation provided)



NUGGETS & KNOWLEDGE

Thursday, September 8th, 2022

Are you interested or do you know someone who would be interested in becoming more involved with our community? Do you like working with children? Want to learn how to become a Reading Buddy tutor? Come learn about the Reading Buddies Federal Work Study tutoring position next Thursday in the Miller Room.

Join us Thursday, September 8th from 12:00 to 12:45pm for Chick-Fil-A Nuggets and Knowledge! Tutor positions are open to all majors, any year, and flexible with sports schedules!

COME GET SOME CHICK-FIL-A NUGGETS

If interested in attending the lunch and learn, sign up with this google form or email monica.morrison1@wilkes.edu.



Join Us For



Nuggets & Knowledge

Come get some free nuggets and learn about our Reading Buddies Tutoring Federal Work Study opportunity!

Date: Thursday, September 8th
Time: 12:00 to 12:45pm
Place: Miller Room



Chick-Fil-A Nuggets and Knowledge

Are you interested in becoming more involved with our local community? Do you like working with children? Want to learn how to become a Reading Buddy tutor? Come learn about the Reading Buddies Federal Work Study tutoring position

Thursday, September 8th, 2022
12:00 to 12:45 pm
Miller Room

SEPTEMBER BLOOD DRIVE

Register now for September 13th!

The Office of Civic Engagement is hosting a blood drive on Tuesday, September 13th, 2022 and would like to invite you to participate! By dedicating only a few minutes of your time to donate blood, you can help save a life and contribute to the greater good of our world. Please help the American Red Cross of Northeast Pennsylvania ensure the health of patients in our community and all over the world. If you have questions or are interested in volunteering your time with this cause, email Megan Boone Valkenburg at megan.boone@wilkes.edu.

"Encouraging members of the Wilkes community to be part of the solution and having them be part of someone's recovery is very noble."

~ Megan Boone Valkenburg
Coordinator of Civic Engagement



Blood Drive
Wilkes University
McHale Athletic Center

Gym
169 S Main Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766

Tuesday, September 13, 2022
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



MINDFULNESS BENCH PROJECT

On Campus Bench Project

Make sure to take advantage of the last few weeks of good weather. Find one of our tagged benches on campus to sit down and journal your thoughts. These benches are strategically placed around campus to promote mindfulness, increase self-reflection, and inspire creativity. Embrace nature and appreciate the beauty of our Wilkes campus by participating in the Bench Project.

**"We want to bring human connection and interaction back to the forefront, one bench (and one journal) at a time."
~ The Bench Project, 2021**



**"While society is technically at its most connected right now, many people are withdrawing themselves from the world and becoming isolated."
~ The Bench Project, 2021**

