

What's New in the Southwest Area

Serving Coos, Curry, and Douglas counties

Thank You!

Our incredible community of 259 volunteers spent 2,539 hours this year reading with kids and helping them choose new books to keep. We're so grateful for the volunteers, donors, educators, and partners who made it possible for us to return to in-person reading, give away thousands of books, and inspire a love of reading in local kids. Thank you for being an important part of SMART Reading!

Classroom SMART a Success in the SW!

Classroom SMART, our newest model where a volunteer leads an interactive reading session for a full class, continues to be a popular and effective method for getting kids engaged and excited about reading.

Pictured below is volunteer Rachel Clark leading a Classroom SMART session at the Boys and Girls Club of Southwest Oregon in Coos Bay!



2022-23 Local Impact



29
Sites



1,726
Students Served



14,258
Books Given

Meet Your Local Team

What's your favorite thing about SMART? Here's what the Southwest Area team has to say:



Della Harp, Area Director

I love reading with the kids—hands down.



Christine Jones, Program Manager

Prior to joining SMART, I was working as an aide in a local Kindergarten class, and navigating the pandemic with four children. I saw a need for community engagement in our schools and I believed that SMART was a great way to do that. I really appreciate getting to work with engaged community members; we have amazing volunteers! I also really enjoy getting books and reading support to the kids in my community.



Kristen Dellsite, Program Manager

Prior to SMART, I worked in finance and telecommunications. Joining SMART four years ago has brought me back to one of my very first loves... reading! I love working with all of our incredible volunteers; having a common goal is so powerful.

"Every Monday my kids looked forward to SMART Readers. I would say: 'It's Monday, what does that mean!?' and the kids would shout, 'SMART Readers!' They each developed new relationships, enjoyed one-on-one attention, and were eager to pick out books they got to keep. The love of reading is instilled even more so when SMART Readers come to the classroom."

- Teacher, Southwest Area

It was such a joy to return to in-person reading this year and see kids connect with their volunteers.

Pictured is a reading session at Glide Elementary.

