



Writing Coaches
of montana
"Community Mentors Coaching Young Writers"



Coaching update

Our coaching calendar has blown up in the past month! We are thrilled to reconnect with school partners and get back into classrooms with hundreds of students.

In addition to our continued work at Sentinel High School, Big Sky High School, Whitefish High School, and Target Range School, next on the docket is extending our pilot with elementary classrooms at Muldown Elementary School and scheduling sessions at Hamilton High School late in fall semester.

Trained coaches, please [keep checking our coaching calendar](#) and your email inbox to receive information about coaching opportunities. We have several assignments to choose from across high schools and middle schools through November and December.

The above pictures show our coaches meeting with students at CS Porter Middle School earlier this week. We coached every 8th grader for a whopping total of 178 sessions.

What a heroic effort from our amazing coaches!

GIVING **TUESDAY**

WCM's Giving Season

Writing Coaches of Montana's giving season will kick off on Giving Tuesday, which is **November 30th**.

In addition to asking for financial donations on Giving Tuesday, we are also hoping to recruit new coaches, thank our current coaches, and celebrate all the different ways to give to our local public schools through WCM.

If you're able to give back through donations this season, **consider gifting a loved one with a Friends of WCM membership**. This annual donorship program automatically withdraws a monthly donation for WCM. As a fun perk, Friends of WCM donors are included in bi-monthly local business prize raffles.

Here are a few donorship level suggestions:

- \$40/month pays for the school cost of 150 coaching sessions.
- \$12.50/month pays a trainer at a new volunteer workshop.
- \$2.10/month covers the cost to process one coach background check.

This program allows staff to spend less time fundraising and more time building programs that help Montana students become competent, confident writers. [Join Friends of WCM today!](#)

To join Friends of WCM, donate your chosen monthly amount [HERE](#) and click the "make this a monthly payment" box when entering your payment information.

Volunteer Meet-Up: Connecting Across Generations

We will host our next volunteer meet-up from **4:30-5:30pm on Wednesday, November 17**. Here is the [link for this Zoom](#) gathering. Anyone interested in joining our WCM community is welcome to attend and hear about the powerful cross-generation connections we make with students!

We ask that coaches bring a 2-minute or less anecdote about a time they connected with a student. As a wonderful benefit of coaching, we've seen how the interactions between coaches and students make connections across generations, decreasing prejudices about the "aloof teenager." And the relationship is reciprocal! A teacher recently shared with us that students more clearly appreciate older generations after they connect during a coaching session.

As we move into the season of family gatherings and Thanksgiving, please join us in a celebration of connections across generations!

(Please note that we will be recording this gathering to share for marketing purposes. We want other folks to know how great it is to be a coach!)

New Coach Training--Give to WCM this season by recruiting a friend!

Demand for our services is higher than ever, and one of our biggest needs is to bolster our number of trained coaches. A great way to show thanks for WCM's mission is to help recruit new coaches.

We will have an **online new volunteer training on Thursday, December 9, from 6-8:45pm**. Please consider emailing friends and colleagues who would make great coaches.

Remember, coaches only need an open mind, supportive attitude, and willingness to meet students where they're at. Our literacy experts will help folks build their coaching confidence during our training workshop and during monthly volunteer meet-ups focused on professional development.

Folks can register for the workshop [HERE](#).

Thank you to Target Range School District for sponsoring this training!

Welcome to new intern, Shasta Hecht!

Shasta Hecht is our newest intern for the 2021-2022 academic year. Shasta is a junior at the University of Montana, originally from Olympia, Washington. She is currently pursuing a BFA in Creative Writing as well as a French minor.

Shasta has been an avid writer for years, and harbors a love for the teaching and workshop process, which is one of the many reasons she has decided to join the WCM team. Throughout high school she helped coach her peers' college application essays, and she brings this passion to Writing Coaches of Montana.

After graduation Shasta hopes to pursue a career in the education sector, specifically in the English department or Foreign Languages department as a professor of higher education. Her upbringing in a bilingual family has inspired her to continue studying French culture and the ways in which bilingual students understand the writing process.

Aside from academics, Shasta is also an avid skier, hiker, and runner. She enjoys skiing at Lookout Pass and Snowbowl in the winter, and running on the beautiful Missoulian trails in the spring, summer, and fall.



Thank you to corporate sponsor, Cover Three!

Cover Three is WCM's second platinum corporate sponsor. We are so thankful to this company for supplementing 500 coaching sessions with this generous donation!

Read our own Kat Jackson's [interview with Aaron](#), one of Cover Three's co-founders, to learn more about the company's business model and commitment to supporting education and literacy.

For questions about our corporate sponsorship program, contact Executive Director, Cassie Sheets, at cassie@writingcoachesofmontana.org.

With gratitude,

The WCM Team

www.writingcoachesofmontana.org

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