



## We Connect Kids and Dogs to Unleash Their Potential!

Paw to R.E.A.D.® teams consist of a dog owner and his/her certified therapy dog.

We need daytime volunteers to work in schools and evening/Saturday volunteers to work in libraries and at special events all over greater Richmond. School visits are typically once a week or bi-weekly for 1 – 2 hours each throughout the school year. Library visits are typically once a month year round for 1 ½ hours.

### How do we become a certified Alliance of Therapy Dog (ATD) therapy team?

- Review the ATD website at <https://www.therapydogs.com/>
- Dogs must be at least 1 year of age
- Dog must have lived with you for at least 3 months
- Dogs should have basic manners skills, be calm in distracted settings, very comfortable with children, and not reactive to other dogs
- Attend basic obedience training with your dog if needed
- Schedule a time to be tested with a tester/observer in the Richmond area
- Maintain your registered therapy dog certification with insurance coverage annually

### OK - We're registered as a therapy team - what's next?

- Observe a current Paws to R.E.A.D. team on a scheduled visit without your dog
- Determine when and where you would like to visit as a team based on current program needs
- Purchase and review the R.E.A.D. Training Manual from Intermountain Therapy Animals <http://www.therapyanimals.org/R.E.A.D.html>
- Complete a Volunteer Application form for Sprite's HERO
- Attend the Paws to R.E.A.D. volunteer tutoring training class
- Submit paperwork to Intermountain Therapy Animals (ITA)
- Receive READ membership card from ITA and provide a copy to Sprite's HERO
- Complete a supervised READ visit with your therapy dog under the supervision of an active Paws to READ volunteer
- Work with Paws to READ Program Coordinator to schedule Paws to READ visits with assigned facility (school or library)
- Attend annual volunteer training session, usually held in July
- Attend at least 1 community event per year
- Complete bi-annual evaluations conducted by Sprite's HERO

Have Fun with the Readers!



**Sprite's HERO, Inc. – Paws to R.E.A.D.<sup>®</sup> - Volunteer Application Form**

Handler's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about us? \_\_\_\_\_

Canine partner's name/breed: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Dog Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: M/F

Spayed/Neutered: Y/N

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Alliance of Therapy Dogs expiration date of registration: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe your current therapy dog work (Where do you visit? How often? For how long have you been doing therapy work with this partner?):

Do you have a background in the education field? If so, please describe.

What days and times are you mostly available? Are you available during school hours?

Other volunteer opportunities you would like to help with (please circle):

Community event booth

Volunteer orientations

Fund raising

Community presentations

Volunteer social events

Web site development

Email or regular mail your completed application with copies of your therapy registration ID to:

[spriteshero@gmail.com](mailto:spriteshero@gmail.com)

Sprite's HERO, Inc.

Paws to R.E.A.D. Program Manager

P.O. Box 15761

Richmond, VA 23227