



Essential Role of Read to Rover Subs

Every week that Chimacum Creek Primary School and Salish Coast Elementary School are in session, 20 regular Read to Rover teams show up for the second graders to read to their dogs. These volunteers have made a commitment to these kids to be there for them. We honor these teams for making such a long-term commitment!

But life happens - dogs get sick, humans get sick, or there are previous plans that can't be changed - so with this many volunteers, there is always a need for substitutes. We have been relying heavily on the same volunteers every week in this

capacity. The photo above shows Pam Rogge and her dogs, Jeeves and Belle Fleur, who have served as subs at Chimacum Creek almost weekly.

Our subs are fully qualified therapy dog teams and have gone through the background checks required by the school districts they visit. They have more flexibility since they can just say "no" if they can't come on a particular date. Since Salish Coast and Chimacum Creek Read to Rover programs are on different days of the week, some full time teams at each school have offered to be subs at the other. If you are interested in participating in Read to Rover, but don't want to make a firm time commitment, please consider becoming a sub. For more information, contact us at olympicmountainpals@gmail.com.

Most of all, we want all of our teams, both regulars and substitutes, to know that their time and energy spent on behalf of our young readers is greatly appreciated!

Older Students as Read to Rover Helpers



The Read to Rover program has become an integral part of the Chimacum School District, not only for our second grade readers at Chimacum Creek Primary School but also for students in the Flexible Learning classroom, housed in the High School. Students in the Flexible Learning classroom have been washing the Read to Rover dog blankets every other week for many years now and with COVID protocols in place this year, on a weekly basis. This particular task enables students to learn functional daily living skills such as using a washing machine, a clothes dryer, folding, sequencing, vocabulary, organization, following directions and pre-vocational training. It takes half of the school day which is completed between academic classes plus specialists at the elementary school. This fabulous offering has been a real gift to the Read to Rover program and has kept our reading areas clean and comfortable for our canine companions as well as their handlers. This year, we are proud to highlight the student in charge of this endeavor, Gage, who is 10 years old and in 5th grade. We thank "Teacher Veronica" for her ongoing assistance and guidance with Gage as he completes this Read to Rover activity. We especially thank our new friend Gage for all his help and hard work!

Another wonderful program that supports our Read to Rover program this year is "Dog Biscuit Making" at the *Gathering Place* by one of our amazing long time students, Cole Henley. This is the first year we have tapped into the Gathering Place to provide our terrific Rovers with their now "expected" treats! You can't beat the yumminess of the many flavors these tasty biscuits bring to the table...er uh, dog bowl! Similar to the Flexible Learning Program, the Gathering Place supports ongoing learning albeit for older students who are focusing on transitioning from school to work within our community. We can't thank Cole enough for his hard work making the biscuits, but also for delivering them to Chimacum Creek Primary School each week in such a timely manner. In



addition, Cole delivers our very clean blankets each week. We are proud to highlight Cole and his contributions to Read to Rover.

[Read more](#)

Becoming a Therapy Dog Team

What does it take to become a therapy dog team and participate in our outreach programs like Read to Rover? First, you and your dog will need to pass our test. Approximately once a month or whenever there are enough people interested, we will schedule a therapy dog test, administered by Georgia Towle at her Lucky Dog Training Center in Chimacum.

You will have to demonstrate that you and your dog can work as a team to perform the following items of the test:

- Your dog can sit or lay in close proximity with other dogs,
- Sitting politely for petting and allowing head, ears, and tail to be touched.
- Tolerating erratic petting such as a child or disabled person might do.
- You and your dog can go out for a walk on a loose leash.
- Walking through a crowd, even when the crowd includes noise and visual distractions, such as wheelchairs or walkers or something being dropped.
- Sitting, laying down, staying, and coming when called.
- Being able to stay in control when greeting a friendly stranger with a neutral dog.
- Disregarding toys or food on the ground (within 6 ft.) when told to "leave it."
- Waiting at a door threshold so you can determine what is on the other side before releasing your dog to go through.

If you believe your dog is ready and are interested in signing up for an upcoming test, please contact us at olympicmountainpals@gmail.com or train@theluckydogtraining.com.

[Visit our website](#)

Holiday Dog Cookies

Ingredients:

- 3 cups brown rice flour
- 1 teas cinnamon
- 1/4 cup peanut butter
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups cooked down pumpkin

Instructions

1. Heat oven to 350 F
2. Stir all ingredients in a bowl until dough forms
3. Roll portions of dough on floured surface with rolling pin to 1/2 inch thickness. Cut with cookie cutters of your choice. Place cookies 1 inch apart on cookie sheet lined with parchment paper.
4. Bake 35 to 40 minutes until dry and golden brown
5. Cool completely, about 30 minutes.
6. Can be stored at room temperature for a week - longer than that, freeze for later.



Please Give

Unless you plan to prank your family members, we suggest labelling your cookie jar as "dog cookies." We've heard stories of R2R spouses who have assumed the treat was a sweet sugar cutout cookie and gotten quite a surprise!

During the holidays, there are so many demands on your time and generosity, but please also consider making a donation to Pet Pals. Your gift will help us continue serving our community through our funding of low income spay and neuter clinics and our therapy dog programs.

Olympic Mountain Pet Pals is a 501(c)(3) (non-profit) organization. Please consider donating today.

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Olympic Mountain Pet Pals

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