



On March 15, 2017, at 11:00 am, get ready to...

DROP EVERYTHING AND READ!

What is National DEAR Day?

DEAR stands for “Drop Everything And Read.” In an effort to promote reading culture and love of learning on a national scale, Peace Corps, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology, and Sports, has come together with an unprecedented number of stakeholders to create the following vision—at the exact same time, on the very same day, everyone in schools or community organizations across Uganda puts down what they are doing and engages in reading.

Just imagine this powerful message this sends about education and the importance of literacy!

When is National DEAR Day?

The 4th National DEAR Day will be on **Wednesday, March 15th, 2017 at 11:00 AM and will last approximately 20 minutes.**

What do I do to prepare my school or organization for National DEAR Day?

Start talking about DEAR Day with teachers, staff, students, pupils, community members, etc. about the importance of DEAR day. Next, create a program for your school or organization. Ask yourself what DEAR Day will look like. What activities will you do? Do you need to gather resources, such as newspapers and readers? Can you invite parents? What special talents can be showcased? Which prominent members of the community can get involved – perhaps to read aloud to the school?

What activities can we do to celebrate National DEAR Day?

DEAR Day is a wonderful opportunity to shine a light on the importance of literacy and reading culture while also celebrating your community and its members. Below are some ideas for DEAR Day program items:

- **Silent reading** – each reader reads silently to him or herself, using any material available – novels, textbooks, newspapers, or readers, at the same time. It’s important for teachers and school leaders – even the staff, like guards and cooks – to participate, because it is a powerful shared experience to read together as a community!
- **Buddy reading** – two people take turns reading the same book to each other.
- **Read aloud** – where one person reads a book or text to a classroom or even a whole school

- **Writing Workshops** – writing stories, free writing, or goal writing can be good prompts!
- **Guest speaker/reader** – invite a local leader to read aloud to the school!
- **Music, Dance, and Drama (MDD)** – have your school's MDD team create a performance about the importance of literacy. The group can perform on National DEAR Day for the whole school!
- **If you still need ideas about how to effectively implement DEAR Day please call us at 0772 139 678**

Contact Information

DEAR Day Director Mary Hanlin can be reached at nationaldearday@gmail.com
Please contact her if you want to know more about DEAR Day resources available for you and celebrations taking place in your area!

You can also call the dedicated DEAR Day phone hotline at: **0772 139 678** If you do not have a lot of airtime, just call briefly and we will call you right back using our airtime.

Certificate of Participation

Organizations and schools will receive a certificate of participation upon submission of the form below. Pictures are appreciated! *Exceptional* performance at a school or association will become eligible for a special reward of scholastic materials to carry on DEAR Day in the future. An example of an eligible candidate group would be a detailed program, evidence of implementation, photographs, video clips if available, and children's testimonies.