

Summer Reading Challenge Volunteer Role Description

The Summer Reading Challenge is a successful and popular campaign run by the Reading Agency and supported by libraries to engage and encourage children to keep reading through the long summer holiday with a series of fun and exciting activities and challenges.

Children earn stickers and other rewards, with a certificate for everyone who completes the challenge of reading six library books.

Volunteering is a vital part of the campaign as volunteers are needed to help sign up children in libraries, explain how the reading challenge works, spend time talking to them about the books they have read and handing out rewards and incentives at the end of the challenge.

Commitment:

Ideally a commitment of 2–8 hours per week for a minimum of six weeks over the summer holidays.

Key Elements of the Role:

Working under the direction of the Library Manager and Summer Reading Challenge Volunteer Co-ordinator, roles can vary but certain tasks are commonly undertaken. These are:

- Joining children to the challenge and explaining how it works.
- Encouraging children to read and helping them to choose new books
- Talking to children about the books they've been reading and encouraging them to share their views and ideas.
- Helping children to have fun and enjoy the Summer Reading Challenge and their visit to the library
- Keeping accurate records
- Helping with other library duties when time allows.
- Helping customers by referring enquiries to library staff.
- Helping to create exciting and engaging library displays.
- Handing out reading rewards including stickers and medals at the end of the challenge.

There are particular benefits for young people who volunteer to help with the Summer Reading Challenge:

- Valuable work experience and a reference for employment
- The opportunity to develop confidence, social skills, self-esteem, employment opportunities and literacy skills.
- A chance to make new friends and feel part of the community
- Credit towards accreditation schemes such as The Duke of Edinburgh Award and Art's Award.

Person Specification:

We are looking for volunteers who are:

- Reliable, attending all booked sessions, notifying staff in good time if unable to attend.
- A good team worker, able to work with library staff and other volunteers.
- Enthusiastic about encouraging children to read.
- Friendly
- Well organised
- Committed to helping libraries and our customers.
- Anyone over 12 years of age can volunteer to help with the summer reading challenge.

Suffolk's Libraries Industrial & Provident Society Limited

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