WORCESTER COUNTY LIBRARY Reading Buddies

Volunteer Position Description

Position Summary: Reading Buddies are paired with an elementary-aged student to practice reading and early literacy skills. Through one-on-one reading time and engaging literacy games, volunteers encourage a shared love of reading and help a young reader gain confidence in their reading abilities. Reading Buddies are trained to serve as reading mentors and commit to weekly meetings at the Pocomoke library branch with their reader over the course of a seasonal program session.

Essential Functions:
Reading Buddy Volunteers will:

- Work with their assigned student to practice the mechanics of reading through one-on one reading time.
- Engage in games and activities provided by the library to support literacy development.
- Encourage a love of reading with their student and promote increased reading comprehension by engaging in discussions about shared books.
- Foster reader confidence through encouragement, support, and celebration of improvement.
- Maintain a positive, calm, and encouraging demeanor with their student.
- Proactively communicate questions, concerns, or availability issues with the Youth Services Coordinator.
- Uphold standards of privacy and confidentiality.

Qualifications:

- Ability to interact dynamically with children
- Ability to remain composed during periods of frustration
- Ability to gain working knowledge of basic literacy development
- Ability to act as a representative of Worcester County Library

Preferred Experience:

- Experience reading with children, whether personally or professionally

Location: Pocomoke

Time Requirements:

- One hour per week during the seasonal program period: Spring 2027
- Training – 2-hour workshop prior to volunteering

Enrollment Guidelines:

- Volunteers must be 18+.
- Volunteers must agree to a background check (paid for by Worcester County Library).
- Volunteers must complete a Library Volunteer Application.
- Volunteers must complete an in-person interview with the library.

Training and Supervision:

- Mandatory orientation for new volunteers will be held at the start of each seasonal session.
- Library staff will be available during Reading Buddies sessions to provide support as needed.

Application Deadlines:

- Reading Buddy Volunteer applications are accepted on a rolling basis. To participate in an upcoming session, new volunteers should apply by:
    - Spring Session (March-May): December 31, 2026

Applications are available online at
https://worcesterlibrary.org/volunteering-library

Apply online or download and complete your application. Completed applications may be sent to sarena@worcesterlibrary.org or dropped off at any library branch.

For questions, contact:
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