

The Program

In all of our children's and teen programs, Halifax Public Libraries provides a safe, supportive and fun environment for youth to strengthen academic skills both formally and informally, explore creativity, play, connect with others and develop life skills that can have a lifelong positive impact.

Reading Support does all of these things, through a one-on-one weekly tutoring program for youth in Ages 8-12 that focuses on reading and math with a customized learning program for each student. The extra support provided by this program can be the boost needed to break down barriers to learning and lead to greater school success.

How Volunteers Can Help

As a Reading Support Volunteer, you will:

- Expand the library's capacity to offer this essential program, providing accessible, community-based learning.
- Be matched with a young student with whom you will take a learning journey together.
- Be a mentor and role model as well as a tutor.
- Enrich connections between the Library and families in the community.

The Volunteer Role

Under the supervision of the branch Reading Support Coordinator, you will:

- Develop a learning plan for your student based on their identified learning needs (with a focus on literacy and math) and their personal interests and experiences.
- Use a wide variety of materials (books, games, crafts, art, puzzles, technology etc.) that will motivate the student and make learning fun and engaging.
- Meet with your student at the library for one hour each week (the library will help to facilitate online sessions if COVID-19 restrictions are still in place).
- Continually monitor the students' progress by reviewing report cards and other progress reports and adapt learning plans if needed.
- Act as mentor and role model to the student and support the development of life skills in addition to the academic program.

We are looking for volunteers who:

- Are at least 19 years of age
- Have great interpersonal and communication skills
- Have a passion for working with youth and guiding them to reach their potential
- Are friendly and outgoing and enjoy meeting new people
- Have excellent planning and organizational skills
- Are flexible and can adapt learning plans to meet changing needs
- Are reliable and punctual
- Enjoy teaching people new things

Time Commitment

2-3 hours per week from September to May, including 1 hour with the student and 2 hours for preparation.

NOTE:

All volunteers will require a Criminal Records Check. The library will initiate these through MyBackCheck.com and will also cover the cost.

Contact:

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