

Summer Reading Challenge Volunteer

WHERE AND WHEN

All Explore York Libraries and Archives Libraries, excluding Community Stadium, Rowntree's Park and Hungate Reading Cafes

Saturday 12 July 2025 – Saturday 13 September 2025

WHAT WILL I BE DOING?

Each year Explore York Libraries and Archives offer The Summer Reading Challenge for children. This invites children to read 6 books over the summer holiday, receiving rewards for each book they read, and a medal and certificate when they complete the challenge. Children's events are delivered across the summer alongside the Challenge.

You will be a representative of Explore York Libraries and will deliver a fantastic experience to our customers and event facilitators, ensuring that they want to come back again.

HOW WILL I BE HELPING YOU?

In this role you will be welcoming and encouraging to children, their parents and carers. You will be helping children discover the wonderful array of stories and information available to them, encouraging them to find the books that will ensure that they are reading for pleasure. You will help library staff to promote, deliver and administer the challenge and our summer events programme.

Research has shown that the Summer Reading Challenge can help children to maintain their reading levels over the summer holiday, as well as helping them develop their confidence and self-esteem. By helping us to deliver the challenge you will be helping children to develop a love of reading and, most importantly, have fun along the

way. You will enable children to get more out of the challenge and help them to complete it and receive rewards and recognition. Our events add to this by letting children be creative, try new skills or develop ones they have in a relaxed environment.

TASKS

- Be a friendly face in the library and actively encourage children to sign up to the challenge and advise about upcoming events and activities.
- Chat to children about what they've been reading and when needed help with choosing books.
- Sign children up to the challenge, update children's reading records, hand out rewards and encourage children to complete the challenge.
- Help to create Summer Reading Challenge themed displays.
- Direct children to the Summer Reading Challenge website and activity sheets.
- Recording any challenge feedback from parents and children.
- Help with other related children's library activities, like tidying the children's area, shelving books, printing off activity sheets, etc.
- Support our staff/facilitators with the delivery of Summer Reading Challenge events
 - Help to set up and clear up sessions.
 - Register children as they arrive.
 - Help children with the activity if needed.

WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED?

An ability to talk confidently with children, parents and carers

A friendly, outgoing way of dealing with others

Confident in engaging with people from all backgrounds.

A willingness and ability to work with IT.

Experience of working with children would be an advantage but if you have the above skills this is not essential.

Able to respect and represent the values and reputation of Explore.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

On the job training on running the Reading Challenge and how to support at events.

An Induction training session including health & safety and risk assessment.

Daily support from library staff working alongside other volunteers.

HOW MUCH TIME DO I NEED TO COMMIT?

The Summer Reading Challenge runs in our libraries, during all opening times and our events are within our opening times. You decide how much time you can commit and at which library you would like to volunteer.