

Summer Reading Challenge Volunteer

WHERE AND WHEN

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

The Summer Reading Challenge is Saturday 11 July 2026 – Saturday 12 September 2026. We need volunteers during this period and some for a couple of weeks beforehand.

WHAT WILL I BE DOING?

Each year Explore York Libraries and Archives deliver The Summer Reading Challenge for children. This encourages children to read over the summer holiday, receiving rewards for the books they read, and a medal and certificate when they complete the Challenge. Children's and family events are also delivered across the summer alongside the Challenge.

As a Summer Reading Challenge volunteer you will be a representative of Explore York Libraries and will deliver a friendly and welcoming experience to our customers and event facilitators, ensuring that they have a positive experience.

HOW WILL I BE HELPING YOU?

In this role you will be promoting the Summer Reading Challenge to children and carers, signing children up to the Challenge, recording their reading adventure, and giving out their rewards. Children will tell you about the stories they have read and may ask for your guidance on finding new books to read.

We also deliver a full programme of fun family activities, delivered by experienced providers over the summer holiday. We may also need your help with greeting families as they arrive for these pre-booked

activities, ensuring they know where to go and feel welcomed to the activity.

TASKS

- Be a friendly face in the library and actively encourage children to sign up to the Challenge.
- Chat to children about what they've been reading and when needed help with choosing books.
- Update children's reading records, hand out rewards and encourage children in their Challenge.
- Help to create Summer Reading Challenge themed displays.
- Advise children about the Summer Reading Challenge website which has an online challenge and activities.
- Record any challenge feedback from parents and children.
- When quiet help with keeping the Children's Library tidy and check there are a supply of activity sheets.
- Support with our family events by welcoming families as they arrive and checking them against the bookings sheet.

WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED?

To be friendly and approachable.

Confident in speaking with children and carers.

A willingness and ability to work using IT.

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

WHAT SUPPORT WILL I RECEIVE?

An induction training session on the Summer Reading Challenge.

Daily support from library staff who will always be on hand to support with running the Summer Reading Challenge and supporting at events.

HOW MUCH TIME DO I NEED TO COMMIT?

The Summer Reading Challenge and our events run during each library's opening hours. Our peak times tend to be weekends and weekdays between 10am and 4pm. Ideally you would be able to volunteer for half a day a week, but you decide how much time you can commit and at which library you would like to volunteer.