

## Summer Reading Challenge Volunteer: Role Description

### Why this role?

- Good for people looking for a short-term summer volunteering opportunity (although there is the possibility of extending it for longer)
- Good for those who enjoy working with children or would like to gain experience of working with children
- Good for those looking to add voluntary experience for their T-Levels.
- Perfect for those who loves books
- Lots of opportunity to help impact the lives of local children by encouraging them to read
- Previous experience not necessary
- Available across Somerset in all 32 libraries
- Suitable for young volunteers (ages 13 and over)

### Role overview

The Summer Reading Challenge is a national event produced by the Reading Agency and held across libraries in the UK during the school summer holidays. Children sign up at their local library, then read six library books of their choice to complete the challenge. There are exclusive rewards to collect along the way, as well as a host of fun activities and events, and it's FREE to take part!

Last year, over 7,400 children took part in the challenge in Somerset and we couldn't do that without the help of volunteers.

Volunteers help us with the challenge by signing up children when they come into the library, giving out rewards for reading books, talking to children about the books they have read, helping them choose their next book, and helping to run craft activities.

### When do you need to be available

- At least half a day a week between the **13th July and the 7th September**. (But we welcome those who want to volunteer more regularly!)



- There is flexibility on which days you volunteer. Libraries are generally open between 9.30am and 5pm, Monday – Saturday (Please speak to your library for specific opening times)
- Short holidays can be accommodated

### Tasks

- Register children for the Summer Reading Challenge – help them to write their name, age, membership number etc. on the registration card
- Explain to them how the Challenge works and show children the packs
- File completed registration cards and record children’s progress on these
- Talk to children about the books they have read, and help them to choose new books to read
- Give out progress ‘folders’, cards, certificates and medals.
- Encourage more children who come into the library to do the Summer Reading Challenge
- Encourage those who have started to keep going and to finish.
- Help create fun and engaging promotional displays
- Help keep the children’s section in the library tidy
- Help at children’s events. E.g. craft or story events.
- Help come up with new craft ideas or events for children to take part in

### Skills and Experience

Previous experience is not necessary, but the following may be helpful:

- Enthusiasm for reading

- Enjoy working with children and families
- Knowledge of popular children's books or willingness to find out more
- Talking and listening to children about what they have read
- Organised
- Creative (we are always looking for new craft ideas and book displays!)
- Happy to read on their own during quiet periods
- Patience!

### How to apply

If you would like to take part, please complete the application form. It is available online [here](#) — or you can request a paper copy from your local library. The closing date for applying is the **22nd June**.

A member of staff will get in touch with you to arrange a time to come in for an informal discussion. These will take place between the 10th and 29th June.

Successful applicants will be informed as soon as possible after their informal discussion.

Questions? Email [librariesmail@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:librariesmail@somerset.gov.uk) stating 'Summer Reading Challenge' in the subject line or alternatively speak to your local library.