

# SUMMER READING CHALLENGE VOLUNTEERING

Every year volunteers aged 13-24 help libraries make the Summer Reading Challenge a success across the country.

The Summer Reading Challenge engages thousands of children in reading over the long school holidays. With a record-breaking 839,622 children taking part last year, many library services chose to work with volunteers during the busy summer period. In 2014, 1740 libraries from 138 English library authorities involved volunteers in the Summer Reading Challenge.

## BENEFITS FOR YOUR SCHOOL OR ORGANISATION

- helps students and young people prepare for life after school by developing employability skills, building confidence and raising aspirations
- develops strong local partnerships, increasing your profile within the community
- raises the status of reading for pleasure within your school or organisation
- provides accreditation opportunities with Duke of Edinburgh, Arts Award, the International Baccalaureate and can form part of the National Citizenship Service

## WHAT DO YOUNG VOLUNTEERS DO?

- help staff to run the Challenge
- talk to children about the books they've been reading
- help with summer activities

## IT'S NOT ONLY THE KEENEST READERS WHO VOLUNTEER

Some of our best volunteers have been those who struggled to engage with books at school, or who have few formal qualifications. Many say they are reading more as a result.

# 8,126

volunteers aged 12 to 24 supported the Challenge in 2014





**“Volunteering ... can have a positive effect on people’s sense of purpose, autonomy and happiness, and helps to develop skills, and self-esteem. For young people in particular, it can improve motivation at school and future employment chances.”**

An impact study of youth volunteering on the Summer Reading Challenge in 2014, OPM

### **BENEFITS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

- a local, structured volunteering offer with skills-related outcomes
- valuable work experience to increase employability
- increased confidence, social skills and literacy
- the chance to make a positive contribution to the community

### **HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?**

- Talk to your library service about how you can promote Summer Reading Challenge volunteering
- Volunteering is part of the young people’s programme, Reading Hack.
- Visit the Reading Hack website for more information: [www.readingagency.org.uk/readinghack](http://www.readingagency.org.uk/readinghack)

# 85%

of volunteers said they gained new skills and experience 50% of volunteers said they were more interested in reading after volunteering

**“I was hoping to build on my skills, to be independent, and to work in a team – I got all of those!”**

Young volunteer, 16, Lancashire

# 776

volunteers achieved accreditation for their volunteering in 2014

**“They see they can do things, work with public, be doing similar things alongside library staff. This gives them massive confidence and ambition to then do more.”**

School librarian, Tower Hamlets