

REDWOOD CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

As the celebration of National Volunteer Week 2017 wrapped up on April 29, the library held a recognition event to celebrate the many diverse contributions of our amazing volunteers. Did you know that last year, volunteers contributed over 123,000 hours of time to the Redwood City Public Library? That's actually more paid hours than the entire staff of the library! But even with this incredible level of community engagement with library activities, we're always in need of more individuals to contribute to make a difference in our community.

One of the most rewarding of all volunteer options is the chance to serve as a tutor for Project READ to help adults, youth and families in our community meet their individual goals in learning to improve their reading and writing skills. Volunteers can choose to work one on one with an adult learner or a school-aged child, or with small groups of learners. There are even volunteer opportunities for high school-aged teens to provide mentoring and tutoring to younger students. All tutors are provided with 15 hours of tutor training before being matched with a learner, and the next tutor training series begins on May 16. Call 650-780-7077 or email rlread@redwoodcity.org for more information. We have hundreds of waitlisted learners just waiting for a volunteer tutor like you!

Another very popular and very critical volunteer activity is reading books to children as part of the Traveling Storytime program. Volunteer readers visit about 50 local preschools and day cares weekly. The library provides training and all the books, puppets and flannel board stories you need — your voice and your time is all that is needed to make a difference for our youngest community members.

Volunteer opportunities with library support groups abound. The Friends of Redwood City Public Library always need assistance managing book donations or

working shifts selling books either in the bookstore space located in the lobby of the Downtown Library or at the Redwood City Farmers Market. If you like event planning or promotion, the new Auxiliary of the Redwood City Library Foundation could use your help organizing fundraising activities such as the recent STEAMFest on Courthouse Square or the upcoming Wild Wild West fundraiser on May 13.

The library has many other ways to get involved: providing assistance with children's homework help at all four library locations; serving as a personal technology coach to help teach classes or offer one-on-one assistance to individuals learning how to use computers, e-readers or mobile devices; searching the shelves for items placed on hold; delivering books to residents who are homebound; or helping with special projects in our IT department. To learn more about any of these options, please visit www.redwoodcity.org/departments/library/volunteer or email volunteer@redwoodcity.org.

Editor's note: This article and information is supplied by Derek Wolfram, library director at the Redwood City Public Library. Look for similar articles in upcoming Spectrum Magazine issues.


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