



Afterschool Youth Engagement Program: Reading Buddy VOLUNTEER POSITION DESCRIPTION

BACKGROUND

Every day, Neighborhood House builds community and increases access to housing, health, education, and economic opportunities for low-income, immigrants and refugees across Seattle and King County. Since 1906, Neighborhood House has advanced our mission to partner with individuals and families to build community and increase access to housing, health, education, and economic opportunity. Our programs focus on early childhood education, youth development, employment and adult education, housing assistance, community health, and aging and disability services throughout King County, WA.

Program scope

Reading Buddies play a vital role in supporting literacy development for students in Neighborhood House's after-school programs. Volunteers work one-on-one or in small groups with children, providing individualized attention and encouragement. Sessions focus on reading fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary through interactive and engaging activities.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Meet weekly with assigned student(s) for reading sessions (in-person).
- Read aloud with students, encourage discussion, and assist with comprehension strategies.
- Provide positive reinforcement and create a safe, supportive learning environment.
- Track student progress and communicate updates to staff.
- Participate in orientation and periodic volunteer check-ins or trainings.
- Model enthusiasm for reading and learning.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Passion for working with children and supporting literacy development.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Patience, dependability, and ability to engage with diverse backgrounds.
- Minimum age: 16 years old (or with parental consent if younger).
- Must complete a volunteer orientation and background check.
- Prior tutoring, mentoring, or teaching experience is helpful but not required.

BENEFITS

- Gain hands-on experience in youth education and community service.
- Build meaningful relationships with students and staff.
- Make a direct impact on a child's academic confidence and love for reading.
- Receive ongoing support, and volunteer recognition
- A chance to share your unique skills and passions

- Service hours and letters of recommendations to those who show a strong commitment to the role and community.

TIME COMMITMENT

- Monday to Thursday (Once a week) from 3:30pm-5:30-m-minimum of 2-3 hours 3 months.

LOCATION

Burndale-1044 18th St NE, Auburn, WA 98002

Firwood Circle- 313 37th Pl SE, Auburn, WA 98002

Seola Gardens 11215 5th Ave SW Seattle, WA 98146

APPLYING

Anyone interested in volunteering for this position should complete our [Volunteer Inquiry Form](#) so that we can learn more about you.

For questions about this, or any other Neighborhood House volunteer positions, contact Neighborhood House Volunteer Services at nhvolunteers@nhwa.org.