



**River Forest
Public Library**
Your journey starts here.

Book Buddies Volunteer Application 2026

Name: _____ Date: _____

Street Address: _____

(River Forest residents only)

Home Phone/Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Birthday (month/day/year) _____ Grade level next school year _____

We are launching a new opportunity for Middle School and Teen Volunteers this summer. Being a “Book Buddy” helps to promote reading and literacy skills, as well as confidence for both volunteers and participants in a laid-back environment. **This is not a tutoring program.**

Volunteers for Book Buddies are matched with participating kids entering grades 1-3 in fall. Volunteers will spend two hours a week in this program. One hour is designated to being with their buddy and assist with book selection, reading together, talking about books, and participating in group activities and games. The second hour is split to before and after “buddy hour” with meetings and discussions for volunteers.

This program occurs on specific dates and times, and we ask that volunteers are available for all their meetings in their selected timeslot. The Book Buddies program only meets on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from July 7th – July 29th. There is a required orientation for this program. If you are interested and available, please let us know what time slot you are interested in by circling one:

Session 1:	Session 2:
Tuesdays 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Wednesdays 5:30pm – 6:30pm

Orientation Dates (must attend one):

- Saturday, June 20th 10am – 11:30pm
- Wednesday, June 24th 6pm – 7:30pm

Please list any dates that you are unavailable due to vacation or other scheduling conflicts below.

Volunteers are required to attend a mandatory volunteer orientation on either Saturday, June 20th, from 10-11:30 AM or Wednesday, June 24th, from 6-7:30 PM. Does one of those times work for you?

Why do you want to volunteer for Book Buddies?

Have you ever done volunteer work before? YES/NO

If YES, where did you volunteer and what were your duties?

Will you require any accommodations?

Please list two emergency contacts (at least one of whom is a parent or guardian):

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone: _____



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**Book Buddies:
Volunteer Release and Waiver Agreement 2026**

I certify that the statements made in the volunteer application are true and correct.

I understand that misrepresentation of any information may result in termination of my volunteer involvement.

I understand that I will not be paid for my services as a volunteer and expect no compensation or benefits.

I give my consent to the River Forest Public Library ("RFPL") to use interviews, photographs, or video of myself (and/or my child or ward) for promotional and educational purposes in the media, in any RFPL publication, and on RFPL's website.

As a volunteer, parent, or legal guardian of a volunteer, I hereby assume any and all risk involved as a volunteer of the RFPL. I agree to release, indemnify, hold harmless, defend, and covenant not to sue the RFPL and its trustees, officers, directors, agents, employees, and volunteers ("RFPL parties") from any and all claims or liability arising out of or in any way connected with or associated with my participation in providing volunteer services. I waive my right to sue RFPL and RFPL parties for such claims or liability on behalf of myself and my child or ward.

An application from a minor will be accepted only with a parent's signature. A volunteer must be at least 10 years old.

I understand that I can be released from the volunteer program at any time, for any reason, at the discretion of the RFPL.

Book Buddies Program Overview

Each session is two hours and will begin with a group meeting goals for the day, and any questions or concerns before breaking into small groups. We then welcome the buddies and begin our hour with them starting with a story or activity. Volunteers then break into small groups with their buddy for 30 minutes to select a book and read together, aloud, or discuss. After break-out sessions, we come together again as a group for a closing game or activity. At the end of each session, tweens and teens will have a group discussion on how the session went, and if there are any questions or concerns.

Sample Session Schedule

3:00-3:20pm: Group Meeting with Volunteers

3:20-3:30pm: Quick Break

3:30-3:45pm: Buddies join us in doing an activity/sharing a story

3:45pm-4:15pm: Breakout sessions with buddies

4:15-4:30pm: Meet all together for final game/activity with buddies

4:30-5:00pm: Closing meeting with Volunteers

If I become a volunteer for Book Buddies, I agree to:

- Comply with the policies and procedures of the RFPL.
- Perform my volunteer duties to the best of my ability and act as a member of the team.
- Attend one orientation for Book Buddies.
- Commit to one time slot (Tuesdays, 3pm-5pm or Wednesday 5pm-7pm).
- Miss no more than one Book Buddies meeting with advance notice.

Orientation Dates (must attend one):

- Saturday, June 20th 10am – 11:30pm
- Wednesday, June 24th 6 – 7:30pm

Book Buddies Meetings:

Tuesdays 3pm - 5pm	Wednesdays 5pm - 7pm
July 7	July 8
July 14	July 15
July 21	July 22
July 28	July 29

Volunteer Signature:

Date:

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Date:
