



## Volunteer Information

Reading is a foundational skill, necessary for academic and life success. It is the basis on which all other learning is built. We must get this right. Students who fall behind in the early grades often stay behind, creating opportunity and achievement gaps. Students who are not meeting grade-level reading standards in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade are 4x more likely to drop out of school than their peers. In Cabarrus County, only 54% of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders are meeting proficiency in reading. And 33% achieve “college and career ready” standards.

This is why the Cabarrus County Education Foundation launched the Reading+Mentoring 4 Success Program. Research shows that tutoring/mentoring is one of the most effective ways to increase literacy skills. We want Cabarrus County children to LOVE reading because it can change the trajectory of their lives. This is a collective effort, and we appreciate YOU for investing in a student and making a difference that will affect the future of that child and our community.

Please review the volunteer information and profile below to better understand this opportunity. Reach out if you have questions.

We will be using a staggered start, adding students and mentors to the program from September to November. After the Thanksgiving break, we will cut off enrollment in the program for the current school year.

## Striving Readers Mentoring Calendar

Patriots STEM Elementary School	Wolf Meadow
<b>September 18, 2023</b> Striving Readers Mentoring fall sessions begin	<b>September 11, 2023</b> Striving Readers Mentoring fall sessions begins
<b>December 8, 2022</b> Last day of fall session mentoring	<b>September 21 – October 13</b> No Striving Readers Mentoring (Intercession)
<b>January 8, 2024</b> Striving Readers Mentoring spring sessions begin	<b>January 9, 2023</b> Striving Readers Mentoring spring sessions begin
<b>March 4 – March 8, 2024</b> No Striving Readers Mentoring Sessions (Spring Break)	<b>March 4 – March 22, 2024</b> No Striving Readers Mentoring Sessions (Intercession)
<b>April 17, 2024</b> Volunteer Appreciation Event	<b>April 17, 2024</b> Volunteer Appreciation Event
<b>April 18, 2024</b> Last day of spring mentoring sessions	<b>April 18, 2024</b> Striving Readers Mentoring spring sessions end

## MENTORING TIMEFRAMES

Grade	Patriots	Wolf Meadow
1 <sup>st</sup>	9:40-10:10 a.m.	9:10-9:40 a.m.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	9:40-10:10 a.m.	8:30-9:00 a.m.

# VOLUNTEER PROFILE

## Responsibilities

- Be an ambassador for the importance of reading with your student and the community.
- Meet with mentee student during the school day 1-2 times weekly according to your commitment.
- Build a relationship with your assigned student.
- Complete lesson plan with the student **as prescribed**. The lessons allow for some flexibility.
- Provide feedback regularly to onsite Program Coordinator.
- If working in partnership with another volunteer, please communicate any necessary updates.
- Attend all required training sessions.
- Communicate to Program Coordinator any scheduling conflicts that may interfere with your volunteer commitment as early as possible (at least 24 hours in advance).

## Requirements

- Be at least 18 years of age and not currently in high school.
- Live or work in Cabarrus County or surrounding area.
- Willing to travel to either Patriots or Wolf Meadow Elementary Schools once or twice each week.
- Pass Cabarrus County Schools' Volunteer Background Check.
- Attend an orientation/training session(s) prior to starting in the school.
- Commit to one or two volunteer sessions a week, while the program is in operation.
- Adhere to all health and safety protocols set by the school district.

## Expectations

- Provide complete information for your background check.
- Sign a Volunteer Commitment Form, formally agreeing to fulfill your commitment and implement the program with fidelity to the best of your ability.
- Review lesson plan prior to mentoring session.
- Arrive at the school early enough to check-in with the office and be in the assigned location at the start of the scheduled mentoring session. Timeframes for students' participation will be very precise and to ensure students receive full benefits from the sessions, they must start and end on time.
- Take an interest in your student and build a relationship with him/her.
- Give and receive feedback to/from coordinators. The Program Coordinator will be monitoring mentoring sessions and our team will rely on your feedback to evaluate the program and make needed adjustments.
- Communicate any health, safety, abuse, or neglect concerns about your student to the Program Coordinator as soon as possible.
- Only visit your student during your assigned timeframe.

## Process

- Complete the online [Volunteer Application Form](#).
- Complete the [CCS Volunteer Background Screening](#).
- The Program Manager will reach out with training dates, the Volunteer Agreement and connect you with the Program Coordinator at the appropriate school.
- Complete the new volunteer orientation/training session. In-person and virtual options are available.
- Submit your Volunteer Agreement.
- Once application, background screening, agreement and training have been completed, the Program Coordinator will assign you a student and a start date for mentoring.

## Time Commitment

30 minutes to 1 hour one or two days per week (not including travel time). Please allow for a few minutes on the front and back end of your sessions for check-in and follow-up with Program Coordinators.