

## Important dates:

Applications due: January 10

Interviews (mandatory for new BBs), choose one:

- Tuesday 1/8
- Monday 1/14
- Tuesday 1/15

Volunteer training (mandatory for new BBs), choose one:

- Saturday 1/19, 10:00-1:00 (with lunch)
- Tuesday 1/22, 4:00-7:00 (with dinner)

Sessions (choose one or two):

- **Mondays at Sanchez Elementary**  
3:40-4:55, January 28-April 22  
(no meetings on 2/18, 3/25, and 4/1)
- **Tuesdays at Lafayette Library**  
4:00-5:15, February 4-April 30  
(no meetings on 2/19 and 3/26)
- **Saturdays at Lafayette Library,**  
10:15-11:30 am, February 2-April 27  
(no meeting on 3/23 and 3/30)

**The last day of each session:** Presentations & prizes! Families welcome.



**Questions?** Contact Sarah at  
sarahd@cityoflafayette.com  
or call 303-665-5200, ext. 3813

Visit us online:

<http://www.cityoflafayette.com/readingbuddies>  
and “friend” us on Facebook!



## Big Buddy Awards

Parents of Little Buddies and the Big Buddies themselves can make nominations for Big Buddy Awards given out at an end-of-the-school-year ceremony:

- Leadership Award
- Creativity Award
- Best Rapport Award
- Best Attitude Award

One Big Buddy per year is also nominated for the City of Lafayette Teen Volunteer of the Year.

These awards—plus serving as an Assistant Coordinator or a Writing Buddy—highlight your valuable volunteer experience and look impressive on college, scholarship, and job applications!

*“It makes me  
feel like I am  
making a  
difference in  
the world.”*

—Big Buddy

Lafayette Public Library  
775 West Baseline Road  
Lafayette, CO 80026  
303-665-5200 x3813

<http://cityoflafayette.com/library>



# Big Buddy Volunteer Application

(students in grades 7-12)

Today a reader,  
Tomorrow a leader,  
—Margaret Fuller,



Reading Buddies Program  
Lafayette Public Library

Spring 2013

## What's a Big Buddy?

Big Buddies are trained volunteers who will be in grades 7-12 who meet one-on-one with a younger child (their Little Buddy) once a week to take turns reading together, play games, and do reading-related activities.

### Big Buddies:

- Are students who love books, enjoy reading aloud, and like to spend time with children.
- Become a mentor and friend to a younger child.
- Share books with their Little Buddies to show that reading is fun!

### What's in it for me?

- A great volunteer experience that you can put on your résumé or college application, along with the possibility of recommendation letters from the coordinator.
- The opportunity to get to know teens from other schools, plus leadership opportunities for those who serve as Assistant Coordinator or Big Buddies for Writing Buddies.
- The joy of helping a younger child read and succeed.
- Prizes and recognition from the Library such as books, t-shirts, meals, amnesty from library fines, the RB Handbook, and parties.

## What do Reading Buddies do?

- The first three-hour meeting will be time spent training and getting to know the other Big Buddies (meal included!).
- Next, you will meet all the Little Buddies and do some icebreakers, group activities, and shared reading.
- In subsequent meetings, Buddy pairs will read one-on-one for about 45 minutes, and then will come together as a group to do an entertaining 15-minute literacy enrichment activity. Big Buddies meet for additional ongoing training and planning for 15 minutes after their Little Buddies leave.
- The group activities will culminate in a project or product to share with parents, such as a play, a poetry reading, a game show, or a blog. At this final meeting, all Buddies will receive certificates of participation and books.



*"It was great that my daughter was able to read with someone other than just her mom and dad. It empowered her." —Parent of Little Buddy*

## What opportunities are available for experienced BBs?

- Previous BBs can serve as Assistant Coordinators. They will take on additional responsibilities, including setting up the meeting space; interviewing, training, and mentoring new Big Buddies; and planning activities. They will also receive additional incentives at the end of the program. Contact the coordinator to apply for this role.
- Previous BBs in 9th grade and up can become BBs for our summer Writing Buddies program. They will help plan the sessions, lead whole-group creative writing activities, and work with LBs in small groups.

## I'm interested— What next?

- Fill out the application online or at the library by **Thursday, January 10**.
- Sign up for one or more sessions (specific dates and times on next page).
- Attend an **interview** and the mandatory **training** for new volunteers.
- **Commit to attending every week and arriving on time**, unless the coordinator and your LB are notified in advance.

Note: Responsible sixth graders may apply to participate as Big-Buddies-in-Training. They will shadow experienced Big Buddies rather than be assigned their own Little Buddy. Contact the coordinator for more details and an application.