

Important dates:
Applications due: Sept. 3

Interviews (mandatory for new Big Buddies), choose one:

- Monday 9/9
- Tuesday 9/10
- Thursday 9/12

Training (mandatory for new Big Buddies, optional for others):

- Saturday 9/14, 10:00-1:00 (with lunch)

Sessions (choose one or two):

- Mondays 4:00-5:15, 9/16 - 11/18 (no meeting on 11/11)
- Tues 4:00-5:15, 9/17 - 11/19
- Sat 10:15-11:30, 9/21 - 11/16
- All meetings take place at the Lafayette Public Library

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



Questions? Contact Sarah at
sarahd@cityoflafayette.com
or call 303-661-1180

Visit us online:

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



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



<http://cityoflafayette.com/library>

Big Buddies Volunteer Application

(students in grades 7-12)

**Today a reader,
tomorrow a leader,**
—Margaret Fuller,



Reading Buddies Program
Lafayette Public Library

Fall 2013

What's a Big Buddy?

Big Buddies are trained volunteers 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!).
- On the first day of the new term, 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, or a game show. 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 other opportunities are available?

- Previous BBs can serve as Assistant Coordinators. They will take on additional responsibilities, including interviewing, training, and mentoring new Big Buddies; setting up the meeting space; 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. Contact the coordinator to apply for this role.

I'm interested—what next?

- Fill out the application online or at the library by **Tuesday, September 3**.
- 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.