

Important dates:
Applications due: May 15

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

- Monday, 5/12
- Monday, 5/19
- Tuesday, 5/20

Training (mandatory for new Big Buddies, choose one session):

- Tuesday, 5/27, 4:00-7:00 (dinner)
- Saturday, 6/7, 10:00-1:00 (lunch)

Sessions (choose one or two):

- Mondays 3:00-4:15, June 9 - July 21
- Tues 4:00-5:15, June 10 - July 22
- Sat 10:15-11:30, June 14 through July 26 (no meeting on July 5)

The last day of each session:
Presentations & prizes!



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

Big Buddy Awards given out at an end-of-the-school-year ceremony include:

- Leadership Award
- Creativity Award
- Great Rapport Award
- Great Attitude Award
- Library Service Awards

*“I don’t know
who I would be
without Read-
ing Buddies.”
-Big Buddy*

Every year, a Big Buddy is also nominated for the City of Lafayette Teen Volunteer of the Year. These awards—as well as serving as an Assistant Coordinator or a Writing Buddy—highlight your valuable volunteer experience and look impressive on college, scholarship, and job applications!

*“He’s cool and I like him. He helps me and my brother and he changes his voice when he reads”
--Little Buddy, about his Big Buddy*

Lafayette Public Library
775 West Baseline Rd Lafayette, CO 80026
303-665-5200 <http://cityoflafayette.com/library>



Big Buddies Volunteer Application

(rising 7th-12th graders)

**Today a reader,
Tomorrow a leader.**
-Margaret Fuller



**Reading Buddies Program
Lafayette Public Library**

Summer 2014

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, awards, 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 and group activities.
- 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 and books.



"Being Big Buddies gave my children a confidence boost because they were the helpers instead of needing help themselves. It was great for them to enjoy responsibility." --parent of two Big Buddies

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.

I'm interested—what next?

- Fill out the application (available online or at the library) by **May 15, 2014**.
- 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 rising 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.