

Volunteer Application

2018-19 3rd Grade Literacy Program



Step Forward is a collective impact initiative for northwest Louisiana, covering our four-parish metropolitan statistical area which includes Bossier, Caddo, DeSoto and Webster parishes. Collective impact simply means a “team effort to changing something”. The change we want to make is to improve outcomes for children in our community, from cradle to career, with the ultimate goal of a sustainable, living wage job for every young adult. In order to accomplish this, we need the involvement of every citizen and every organization in our community. Read more at www.stepforwardnla.org.

In an effort to achieve this goal, Step Forward focuses on critical developmental points in the cradle to career path. One of those critical points is third-grade literacy; as research shows that children who are not reading proficiently by the end of third grade are four times more likely to drop out of school than their literate peers. In northwest Louisiana, 38% of third grade students scored below basic proficiency on the 2018 English Language Arts statewide assessment.

Please know that anyone can serve in this role. All you need is a love for children, a love for books, the ability to give at least one hour each week during the school day, and be at least 18 years of age and willing to submit to a criminal background check.

In general, volunteer activities include listening to children practice their reading, reading aloud to them, and discussing the content of a story.

If you would like to serve as a literacy volunteer for third-grade students in our metro area, please complete the information below and return by mail or attach to an email.

If you have any questions, please contact Lou Papai, Third Grade Reading Project Coordinator at LouisPapai001@gmail.com or by cell at 260.437.8664.

Your Personal Information (note please PRINT CLEARLY)

Name:		
Street Address:		
City, St., Zip Code:		
Phone:	(Is this <input type="checkbox"/> Cell or <input type="checkbox"/> Home)	
Work Phone:	Which Phone do you prefer to use for this project? <input type="checkbox"/> Cell <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Work	
Place of Employment & position:		
E-Mail Address:	(Is this <input type="checkbox"/> Work or <input type="checkbox"/> Home)	
DOB <small>(optional)</small> :	Race <small>(optional)</small> :	Gender <small>(optional)</small> : <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F

Note: This information is only used for internal demographic/statistical data tracking and is not released or shared. Step Forward seeks volunteers with diverse backgrounds.

Your Availability

During which hours are you available for volunteer assignments? **Please note that school-based literacy volunteers must be available during school hours.**

___ Weekday mornings

___ Weekday afternoons

Are you able to commit to at least one hour each week working in the school setting for at least one school year? Yes If not, how many hours can you commit? _____

Your Education

Please circle the highest grade completed.

High School: 9 10 11 12 College: 1 2 3 4 5 6+

Other: _____ Field of Study: _____

Lou Papai, Third Grade Reading Project Coordinator
401 Edward Street, Suite 105, Shreveport, LA 71101

LouisPapai001@gmail.com | C: 260-437-8664 | O: 318.404.1755 | Fax: 318.404.1756



Step Forward urges all school systems utilizing literacy volunteers to conduct a criminal background check prior to any volunteer's assignment with a student. All volunteers have been advised that they must be willing to submit to a criminal background check.

Your Legal History (note please PRINT CLEARLY)

Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than a traffic violation? _____

If yes, please explain: _____

Do you object to having a criminal background check completed? Yes No

Your Previous Volunteer Experience / Special Skills or Qualifications (note please PRINT CLEARLY)

Summarize special skills and qualifications you have acquired from employment, previous volunteer work, or through other activities, including hobbies or sports. Include any specific work or volunteer experiences with children or youth. Let us know if you speak any languages in addition to English.

Your Personal Interest (note please PRINT CLEARLY)

Please share your reasons for wanting to serve as a school-based literacy volunteer.

Please list at least two individuals (not family members) who can serve as a personal reference.

(note please PRINT CLEARLY)

Individual #1:

Name: _____

Street Address: *(optional)* _____

City, St., Zip Code: *(optional)* _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: *(optional)* _____

E-Mail Address: *(optional)* _____

Individual #2:

Name: _____

Street Address: *(optional)* _____

City, St., Zip Code: *(optional)* _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: *(optional)* _____

E-Mail Address: *(optional)* _____

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Your Agreement and Signature

By submitting this application, I affirm that the facts set forth in it are true and complete. I understand that if I am accepted as a volunteer, any false statements, omissions, or other misrepresentations made by me on this application may result in my immediate dismissal. I agree to allow the assigned school system to confirm all information listed and to conduct a federal and state criminal background records check.

I understand I must attend the mandatory Step Forward Literacy Volunteer training and be cleared in all steps of the screening process including the criminal background records check.

(Please PRINT CLEARLY)

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Our Policy

It is the policy of this organization to provide equal opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual preference, age, or disability.

Thank you for completing this application form and for your interest in volunteering with us.

From the list below, please list your 1st and 2nd choice school in which you wish to volunteer at. If you have no preference on school or parish, please note so.

School 1st Choice

School 2nd Choice

Know someone that would like to volunteer? Have them contact us!

Participating Schools for the 2018-19 Volunteer Reading Project

Caddo Parish:

Atkins Elementary
Cherokee Park Elementary **NEW**
Creswell Elementary
E.B. Williams Stoner Hill Elementary
Forest Hill Elementary
J.S. Clark Elementary
Linwood Public Charter School **NEW**
Midway Elementary
Mooretown Collegiate Academy
North Highlands Elementary **NEW**
Northside Elementary
Oak Park Elementary
Queensborough Leadership
Academy
Summer Grove Elementary
University Elementary
Westwood Elementary

Bossier Parish:

Bossier Elementary
Meadowview Elementary
Plantation Park Elementary
R.V. Kerr Elementary
Sun City Elementary
Waller Elementary

DeSoto Parish:

Logansport High School
North DeSoto Upper Elementary
Stanley High School

Webster Parish:

Brown Upper Elementary
Central Elementary
Doyline High School
J.L. Jones Elementary
North Webster Upper Elementary

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