

Every year Reading Hack volunteers aged 14-24 help libraries make the Summer Reading Challenge a success across the country. Reading Hack is a programme led by young people who do reading activities and volunteering, called hacks, to gain skills and experience.

The Summer Reading Challenge engages thousands of children in reading over the long school holidays. With over 800,000 children taking part in 2016, 87% of library services chose to work with volunteers during the busy summer period.

### WHAT DO YOUNG VOLUNTEERS DO?

- help staff to run the Challenge – for the whole holidays or a few weeks
- talk to children about the books they've been reading
- help with summer activities

### BENEFITS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

- a local, structured volunteering offer with skills-related outcomes
- valuable work experience to increase employability and add to UCAS forms
- increased confidence, social skills and literacy
- the chance to make a positive contribution to the community
- opportunity to be part of a national programme that inspires others to read

It's not only the keenest readers who volunteer. Some of our best volunteers have been those who struggled to engage with books at school, or who have few formal qualifications. Many say they are reading more as a result.





# 82%

of volunteers felt their skills had increased

“Volunteering with the Summer Reading Challenge has been such a thrilling and rewarding experience, one which has most definitely improved my confidence as well as my CV!”

Jade, Reading Hack volunteer, Dorset libraries

“Volunteering... can have a positive effect on people’s sense of purpose, autonomy and happiness, and helps to develop skills, and self-esteem. For young people in particular, it can improve motivation at school and future employment chances.”

Summer Reading Challenge independent research study, OPM 2014

# 78%

said they felt more part of their community

## BENEFITS FOR YOUR SCHOOL OR ORGANISATION

- helps your students and young people prepare for life after school by developing their UCAS applications and employability skills, building confidence and raising aspirations
- develops strong local partnerships, increasing your profile within the community
- raises the status of reading for pleasure within your school or organisation
- provides accreditation opportunities with Duke of Edinburgh, Arts Award, the International Baccalaureate and can form part of the National Citizen Service

“We were very impressed with the volunteers’ dedication, enthusiasm and professionalism. They had a really good rapport together as a team and with the public as well.”

Elaine Wilkinson, Reading Development Librarian, Peterborough

## HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

- Talk to your local library about how you can promote Reading Hack summer volunteering or email [readinghack@readingagency.org.uk](mailto:readinghack@readingagency.org.uk) for contact details of your local Summer Reading Challenge volunteer coordinator
- Find out more about Reading Hack at: [readingagency.org.uk/readinghack](http://readingagency.org.uk/readinghack)

# OVER 700

volunteers used volunteering to help them gain their Duke of Edinburgh or Arts Award



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**SUMMER READING CHALLENGE**

**READING HACK**

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