



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LA COUNTY LIBRARY IN SEARCH OF OLDER ADULT VOLUNTEERS TO TUTOR KIDS IN READING

New Reading STARS Program Will Provide Free Reading Tutoring to K-3 Students in Select Library Locations

LOS ANGELES COUNTY (August 21, 2017)— LA County Library is seeking older adults over the age of 50 to volunteer as reading coaches to students in grades K-3, as part of its new Reading STARS program.

Reading STARS (Students and Tutors Achieving Reading Success) is an intergenerational tutoring program that pairs older adult volunteers with children not reading at grade-level, to help motivate them to become better readers. Beginning this fall, the program will offer free, one-on-one and small group tutoring at five LA County Library locations: Compton, Hawaiian Gardens, La Puente, Lake Los Angeles and San Fernando.

According to a recent study from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, “Double Jeopardy: How Third Grade Reading Skills and Poverty Influence High School Graduation,” one in six children who are not reading proficiently in third grade do not graduate from high school on time.

“Because grade three is such a critical point in a child’s development, the goal of Reading STARS is to help ensure that students are reading at the appropriate level before they reach grade 4, setting them up for future success,” stated Skye Patrick, LA County Library Director. “And our libraries are safe afterschool learning environments for these children.”

Because the tutoring service is free, the program also seeks to help break the economic barrier of private tutoring, which is often cost-prohibitive for many library customers within the five communities.

To participate in the program, volunteers must reside in the LA County Library service area, preferably local to one of the five participating libraries, and must commit to tutor at least six hours a week during the entire school year. Volunteers must also complete our volunteer application process. Once selected, Reading STARS tutors will attend a two-day training session. Tutors will also receive a stipend of \$100 for each complete month of tutoring sessions. Prospective volunteers interested in the program may visit Colapublib.org/ReadingSTARS, or call (562) 940-8520, for more information.

This program was supported by LA County Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services and funded in part by the LA County Library Foundation.

About LA County Library

Founded in 1912, LA County Library is one of the largest and most innovative library systems in the US. It offers free public resources including books, music, multimedia materials, computer and internet access, as well as educational and recreational programs to 3.4 million residents through its 87 community libraries. LA County Library is dedicated to providing exceptional services to its customers by reducing any potential barriers and increasing access and equality of public services for the diverse communities it serves. For more information, visit colapublib.org.

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