Home Library Service Volunteer

Description
Do you enjoy working with people? Do you know about books and want others who cannot reach libraries to read?

We are looking for sociable and caring individuals to visit our housebound customers in their homes who find it difficult to visit libraries due to old age, disability or illness.

You will be supported in your role as a Housebound Readers Volunteer by the Home Library Service Volunteer Co-Ordinator.

This is what we are looking for:

• You like reading and can be the eyes for borrowing books for housebound people
• You enjoy working with people of all backgrounds and understand the need to be reliable to your housebound reader
• You engage well with others and are passionate about books and reading
• You have an interest in providing books to older people or disabled people who are housebound.
• You are prepared to take books and other materials to a customer either on foot, public transport or your own vehicle. (Travel expenses are reimbursed)
• You are 18 years old. There is no upper age limit for volunteering.

As a Home Library Service Volunteer you will:
• Visit your customer initially with the volunteer co-ordinator to assess their needs.
• Select appropriately up to eight items which may include other materials for loans based on initial assessment and depending on the customer’s interests.
• Keep in contact and arrange to visit your customer on a regular basis in their place of residence
• Keep in touch with the volunteer co-ordinator and attend catch up meetings
• Participate in occasional training to keep up to date with new skills and initiatives

Do you have what it takes?
• A true interest in books and reading and you can read and write.
• Have a few hours every month to spare.
• Able to undertake tasks without close supervision, but understand the need to tell the volunteer supervisor about problems or issues affecting either you or your user

We are guided by these shared values:
Community Improvement
Pride in Service
Optimistic attitude – We believe that anything is possible!

Why you should volunteer with Redbridge Libraries?
• You will increase your confidence dealing with public, and older and more vulnerable people in particular
• You will learn skills around customer care, confidentiality and health and safety.
• You will gain valuable experience for your CV and a reference if you volunteer for more than 35 hours.
• Personal satisfaction.

Anything else you should know?
• You will need to have a satisfactory DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service check). This is something we will arrange for you
• You will need to provide the contact details of two referees who are over 18, know you well but are not members of your family.
• If using your own vehicle, you will need to let your insurer know that you are using it for volunteering purposes.

Where and when you would be volunteering
• We select one or more customers living in a convenient location for you
• This activity takes place all year round and ideally you will visit the customer once every three weeks.
• All volunteers are placed initially on a three month trial basis. Volunteers and activities are reviewed every six months.