



Recruiting Elementary Reading Instructors for SCPL RECOVER & THRIVE Project

Job Summary: The Library is seeking Reading Instructors to work at the Live Oak Branch for 6 weeks during June and July, supporting reading readiness in students grades 1-2. Instructors will work with students individually and in small groups, providing instruction in reading skills and leading engaging literacy activities in a supportive atmosphere designed to nurture a love of reading.

Qualifications: Must relate well to children, possess good oral communication skills, and perform related tasks as assigned. Course work and/or experience in tutoring, young children's literature, language arts instruction, and child development will be helpful. Performs related tasks as assigned.

Desired Qualification: Ability to speak, read and write in Spanish.

Compensation: \$26/hr.

The Reading Instructors will play an integral role in a pilot program that the Library is spearheading this summer (please see the third strategy below). *Please contact: Eric Howard, Assistant Director of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries 831-427-7700 x 7670, howarde@santacruzpl.org by May 1, 2023 to be considered.*

Scope: Working under the guidance of a Reading Specialist, Reading Instructors will work with children 10 hours per week (3 days per week for 2 ½ hours each day plus 2.5 hrs. prep per week and some of the prep time will also include working with a teacher coach) over a 6-week period during June and July, hours and days to be determined. Instructors will also be providing an assessment of the students at the beginning and end of the program (the assessment is TBD by the teacher coach).

The Program's Goal: Recover & Thrive (the name of the pilot and the funding campaign led by the Friends of the Santa Cruz Libraries) aims to address the pandemic's detrimental impact on learning, specifically by targeting struggling readers. The Library recognizes the significance of grade level reading by third grade, since students are learning to read by third grade, but are reading to learn after third grade. Recover & Thrive will target students entering second and third grade.

Early intervention is key and, with the exception of the public library, very few free resources exist for students during the summer months. All students are at risk for falling behind during the summer, but struggling students face even greater risks. The Library intends to provide resources from Recover & Thrive throughout its service area, but the program will be led from the Live Oak Branch Library and will be driven by a pilot program there to better understand Library impacts on grade level reading.



Program Strategies:

1. Seeking to support students identified by the school as struggling readers, SCPL will build on its Community Engagement Initiative with the Live Oak schools and **identify one elementary school to track the impacts of its pilot program.** SCPL will work with the County Office of Education to track data on student learning in order to better guide the public library's work.
2. **Funding will provide expanded teaching hours across the library system to support a new level of teaching that targets reading readiness.** Currently, with Friends assistance, the Library contracts with credentialed teachers who support students with reading comprehension in four libraries across the system. At this time, the program does not support students learning to read.
3. **For the pilot program, the Library will recruit a consultant to work with SCPL librarians, as well as teachers and graduate students to enrich its newly developed reading readiness programs.** Credentialed teachers and graduate students will provide one on one and small group reading readiness support for struggling readers in first and second grades.
4. In addition to in-person teaching, SCPL recognizes that not all students are able to commute to the library. **Beginning in Live Oak, the program will provide scholarships for an online learning program.** SCPL will lend hotspots and tablets to the students with these transportation challenges and provide incentive prizes for their participation.
5. SCPL will hold an event for the pilot's selected school at the Live Oak Library prior to the beginning of the Summer Reading program to **inform parents and families of the many resources at the Library and to sign up interested students.**
6. **Learning Hotspots** will be provided at a few of the branches and will include museum exhibits and programs run by the museums.
7. **Programs run by librarians** will be more strategically implemented to support the new **Reading Readiness** program.

Implementation:

The program will begin supporting readers in June 2023 across the Library system through its newly formed Reading Readiness program. Targeted enlistment for the pilot program in Live Oak, including the party for families there, will begin in early spring of 2023.

Measuring Outcomes:

In addition to capturing numbers of participants and their level of satisfaction with the program across the Library System, **SCPL intends to partner with one school in particular to better understand the Library's impact on grade level reading.**