



Volunteer Job Description

Position: Dog Ears

Location: Mesa County Libraries - Central, Fruita, Clifton, Orchard Mesa, Collbran, Palisade

Position Purpose: The purpose of this position is to provide a certified therapy dog for children to read to at a variety of MCL locations.

Supervisor: Palisade Branch Manager – Elise Forte

Responsibilities, Duties, Functions, Tasks (what must be completed to achieve the goals):

- Bring dog to scheduled Dog Ears programs on time. Contact library location directly if unable to make your scheduled shift
- Assist children with reading as necessary
- Keep side conversations during reading times to a minimum and at a quiet volume as not to intrude on the child/dog experience
- Report hours to Volunteer Coordinator using Volunteer Portal or log sheet by the 10th of each month. Library Staff may choose log hours on your behalf.

Qualifications (minimum experience, skills, education, knowledge):

- Strong interest in working with small children and enjoys reading
- Flexible and have the ability to “go with the flow”
- Willingness to get to know the children and understand any challenges they may be facing
- Dog must be well-groomed, calm, friendly, non-aggressive, tolerant, past puppyish ways, and able to respond to handler’s commands

Requirements:

- Must be at least 18 years old
- Interview with Volunteer Coordinator, review of handbook, signed waivers
- Clear Sterling Background Check
- Dogs must have a current certification from a library-approved therapy dog organization. These include, but are not limited to: Alliance of Therapy Dogs, Therapy Dogs International
- Dogs must be up-to-date on vaccinations, copy of records to be shared with library staff

Time Commitment:

- Minimum 1-hour shift, once a month
- More than one shift can be scheduled per month
- Location preference can be made known