

TALES TO TAILS

Roseville Public Library—Volunteer Program



www.roseville.ca.us/library
(916) 774-5221

Position Overview and Impact:

Encourage children to practice reading aloud skills, and build reading confidence in a safe environment by allowing them to read aloud to library-approved volunteer dogs.

Key Responsibilities:

- Encourage a love of reading and animals to participating children
- Improve children's reading skills through assistance and relaxation

Make a Difference:

- Dog teams (a human handler and Delta-certified dog) make ideal reading companions because animals are attentive listeners and do not judge or criticize, so children are more comfortable when reading and forget their fears. Children gain confidence and strength in their reading.
- Program brings an increased awareness of the library and literacy, increases library patronage and circulation, and is a model for other literacy programs

Qualifications:

- Must be Delta certified dog team (human handler and canine)
- Must pass fingerprinting/background clearance
- Love working with children and animals.
- All dog teams must become READ certified within first 6 months of program, at library's expense
- Ability to sit on the floor with dog and child for up to one hour

Training and Support Provided:

- Initial orientation; supported by library staff during program
- All supplies provided, including: water and area for dog to eliminate, mat and pillows for handler and child, and large selection of books for all levels of readers

Time Commitment: Up to eight (8) one-hour shifts per season (typically March and October), on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings

Time Duration: Minimum of four (4) one-hour shift commitments a year

Location: Program rotates between all three Roseville Libraries (Downtown, Maidu and Riley)

Benefits:

- Help children succeed in school, and gain confidence in reading
- Opportunity to encourage the human-animal bond