



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The SFU Surrey – TD Community Engagement Centre has partnered with the Surrey School District to offer a program called Racing Readers. This after-school program is designed to fill the need for an increased level of physical activity, literacy skills, and numeracy skills among economically challenged and at-risk children in grades 2-5. Racing Readers will operate at two sites:

- Betty Huff Elementary School on Tuesdays from 2PM to 5PM
- Newton Elementary School on Wednesday from 2PM to 5PM

Since this program operates at two sites, student volunteers have the option of volunteering at both sites OR just volunteering at one site. When applying for the volunteer position, students must make clear if they'd like to volunteer at one or both sites.

The start date for Racing Readers will be during the week of October 9th 2017. The end date will be in the week of June 5th. The program will seek to improve the well-being of students in physical, mental, emotional and social areas. Students will be lead through the program by high school, university and adult mentors who will foster companionship, support, discipline, and learning. Throughout the program, children will participate in physical activities, reading and writing exercises, and will be served a healthy snack. At the end, students will have the opportunity to celebrate their progress and success in the physical, numeracy, and literacy aspects of the program.

The total number of spaces available to Grade 2, 3, 4, and 5 students in this program is 30. For the purpose of activities, these 30 students are expected to be divided into 6 groups of 5. Each group of 6 children will have at least 2 adult volunteers and up to 2 high school volunteers.

Following is a sample session schedule:

2:00pm	Coordinators and Volunteers arrive on site; begin set-up/prep for session.
2:30pm	Students arrive; attendance taken; assemble into teams.
2:35pm	Word of the Day discussion; journal writing; announcements; raffle
3:00pm	Circuit Training/Warm-up
3:15pm	Relay Races or Running games

3:30pm	Running laps (either inside or outside, depending on the weather)
3:45pm	Snack and water break; team discussions
4:00pm	Reading program or literacy/numeracy activity
4:45pm	Clean-up and student dismissal
5:00pm	Coordinators and volunteers debrief meeting

OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

We are looking for volunteers to help lead the grade 2, 3, 4, and 5 students through the program by helping teams get organized, coaching the physical activities, and leading the students through the numeracy and literacy activities.

TIME REQUIREMENTS

The Racing Readers program will be after school, starting the week of October 9th 2017 and ending the week of June 8th, 2018 (there will be a two week break for Christmas, one week break for Reading Break and a two week break for Spring vacation).

Volunteers will be expected to be at the school from 2pm-5pm. Volunteers will be expected to attend the program every week for at least one semester, but preferably volunteers will be available for both the Fall and Spring semesters (2016/2017) to volunteer in the program. Availability can be negotiated ahead of time with the Program Coordinator.

PRE-SCREENING + TRAINING

Volunteers must attend mandatory training, to be scheduled based on their availability.

LOCATION

The Racing Readers program will be held at:

- Betty Huff Elementary in Surrey, located at 13055 Huntley Ave, Surrey, BC on Tuesdays.
- Newton Elementary School in Surrey, located at 13359 81 Ave, Surrey, BC on Wednesdays.

SKILLS REQUIRED

- Currently enrolled in OR graduated from an Undergraduate degree, Graduate degree, or Continuing Studies program at SFU (SFU students and alumni welcome!)
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Excellent interpersonal and conflict management skills
- Excellent organizational and problem-solving skills
- Willingness and ability to work with at-risk children who may exhibit behavioral challenges
- Clean criminal record check (you will be given information on how to obtain a criminal record check)



- Previous experience working with children in a recreation or school setting an asset

BENEFITS

- Experience working with kids in an elementary school setting
- Experience facilitating an afterschool program
- Leadership and mentorship experience
- Engage with other SFU students and volunteers
- Reference for job applications (as long as the volunteer is consistent and attends the program for at least one semester)
- Credit on your co-curricular record

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Develop effective written/verbal communication skills
- Develop strategies to solve problems and select an appropriate course of action
- Demonstrate critical thinking skills
- Incorporate diverse teaching methods and strategies which are appropriate to addressing the needs of children and families
- Work effectively with diverse age groups
- Plan for and respond to issues of inclusion

HOW TO APPLY

If you are interested in this opportunity, please send an email to Trisha Dulku (tdulku@sfu.ca) with a brief summary of yourself: name, program, whether you are an SFU student (what year) or alumni, any relevant previous experience or training, and your contact information (email and phone number).

Be sure to include if you are interested in volunteering on both Tuesdays (Betty Huff Elementary) and Wednesdays (Newton Elementary) – or just on one day per week.

DEADLINE

Deadline to apply is **Thursday, September 21st by 11:59pm.**