



ReadingPals is a Statewide Early Literacy Initiative

"ReadingPals offers volunteers an opportunity to build meaningful relationships with young children in Florida, while helping them improve their social-emotional development and early literacy skills. ReadingPals is managed by The Children's Movement of Florida and administered through 17 United Ways — with the help of numerous community partners across the state."

UWCF ReadingPals Polk County Volunteer Application (2 pages) (For New ReadingPals Applicants Only)

The School Board of Polk County requires volunteer applicants to undergo a Florida Department of Law Enforcement criminal background. If you have questions regarding criminal history or approval requirements, please call Kelly Stanton at the Polk County School Board, 863.534.0636.

Instructions:

- There is a \$25 non-refundable fee for the required criminal background screening. (Note: Approved volunteer status is good for 5 years.) You will be asked to make the payment during the online application process, therefore, it is important to carefully consider the 31-week ReadingPals commitment before completing the application. *If you believe you are already an approved volunteer, let the ReadingPals Program Manager know prior to completing the online application. The Program Manager will be able to verify your volunteer status.
Note: The ReadingPals Grant Funding allows for application cost refunds when desired by the applicant. Money not refunded remains in the UWCF ReadingPals program for program use to help ReadingPals students succeed in school. If you would like The United Way of Central Florida to refund the cost of your background screening fee, please check the box near the end of this page.
- The Polk County School Board requires all volunteers to fill out an application online at <https://polkschoolsfl.com/>. Click on "Get Involved", scroll down to "Complete Volunteer Application". Fully complete and submit the application.
Note: If you need help, contact Sylvia Palmer, ReadingPals Program Manager, 863-648-1500 x278.
- Please complete this application, which is for UWCF ReadingPals use only.** Return it to the ReadingPals Program Manager via, fax 863-648-1535, mail to P.O. Box 1357, Highland City, FL 33846-1357, or email to sylvia.palmer@uwcf.org
- Pictures for security badges will be taken at your assigned school. Completed badges will be returned to the school for pick-up.
- All information will remain confidential.
- The United Way of Central Florida reserves the right to accept or deny applicants to any affiliated volunteer program.

Thank you for your commitment to serve as a school volunteer. If you have been convicted of murder, sexual offenses such as sexual battery, lewd or lascivious acts, soliciting lewd acts or indecent exposure, sexual misconduct, prostitution or solicitation of prostitution, obscenity or pornography, contributing to the delinquency/dependency of a child, abuse/neglect, drug related charges, kidnapping or battery to a child, criminal driving offenses, you will not be approved.

*Required Information for all ReadingPals (Please type or print)

*Last Name:	* First Name:	M.I.:
*Date of Birth (including year):	*Ethnicity:	Gender:
*Street:	*City:	*State
*Zip Code	*Email:	
*Home Phone:	*Cell Phone:	

___ I have completed my online application with the Polk County School Board

___ I would like a refund of \$25 from UWCF ReadingPals Program to cover the cost of background screening.

For more information, go to uwcf.org and click on "Our Work," "Education," "Helping Kids Succeed," "ReadingPals"

Office Use Only:

Refund?:___ Andar:___ Trained:___ Approved:___ Vol. Status Expire Date : _____

Volunteer Preferences

* Please check the school/s where you would prefer to volunteer (mark 1st choice, 2nd, etc.):

Note 1: Schools may choose their four ReadingPals days to be either Mon-Thurs (M-Th) or Tues-Fri (T-F)

Note 2: ReadingPal hour and 4-day schedule listed below is subject to change

<u> </u> Alta Vista Elem. 801 Scenic Hwy Haines City, FL 33844 (T-F / 9:05-10:05am)	<u> </u> Auburndale Central 320 Lemon Street Auburndale, FL 33823 (T-F / 9:05-10:05am)	<u> </u> Blake Academy 510 Hartsell Avenue Lakeland, FL 33815 (T-F / 9:00-10:00am)	<u> </u> Crystal Lake Elementary 700 Galvin Drive Lakeland, FL 33801 (T-F / 8:30-9:30am)
<u> </u> Floral Ave Elem 1530 S Floral Ave Bartow, FL 33830 (T-F / 9:00-10:00am)	<u> </u> Highland City Elem 5355 9 th Street, SE Highland City, FL 33846 (M-Th / 8:10-9:10am)	<u> </u> Kingsford Elementary 1400 Dean Street Mulberry, FL 33860 (T-F / 9:00-10:00am & some PM)	<u> </u> Lake Shipp Elementary 250 Camellia Drive Winter Haven, FL 33880 (T-F / 8:45-9:45am)
<u> </u> Lewis A Woodbury Elem. 115 South Oak Avenue Fort Meade, FL 33841 (T-F / 8:05-9:05am/some Mon options)	<u> </u> North Lakeland Elem. 410 W. Robson Street Lakeland, FL 33805 (T-F / 8:45-9:45am)	<u> </u> Padgett Elementary 110 Leelon Road Lakeland, FL 33805 (T-F / 9:00-10:00am)	<u> </u> Spessard Holland 2342 EF Griffin Road Bartow, FL 33830 (T-F / 9:00-10:00am)
<u> </u> Polk Avenue Elem. 110 East Polk Avenue Lake Wales, FL 33853 (M-Th / 9:00-10:00am)	<u> </u> Purcell Elementary 305 First Avenue, NE Mulberry, FL 33860 (T-F / 8:30-9:30am)	<u> </u> Spessard Holland 2342 EF Griffin Road Bartow, FL 33830 (T-F / 9:00-10:00am)	

* Please check the day/s you would like to volunteer (mark 1st choice, 2nd, etc.):

Reminder: Schools may choose their four ReadingPals days to be either Mon-Thurs or Tues-Fri

 Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

Mentor to Make a Difference / Three Pillars of ReadingPals

Mentor: To build genuine impactful relationships between students and our volunteer mentors.

Social-Emotional: To help students build a strong social-emotional foundation through self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision making.

Early Literacy: To improve students' understanding of the fundamental building blocks of early literacy.

The Children's Movement of Florida



Important Note: ReadingPals was designed by and is currently managed by The Children's Movement of Florida – a nonprofit, nonpartisan movement of Floridians advocating for high-quality early learning opportunities, access to children's health care, and parent support programs. Through your volunteer experience, you will see firsthand the importance of high-quality early education and why The Movement wants to give our youngest Floridians a strong start.

Yes! Please share my email address with the Children's Movement so I can begin receiving updates directly from The Movement on statewide ReadingPals efforts and what is happening in the area of early education in Florida.

Signature: _____ Date: _____