



**UWCF ReadingPals Polk County Volunteer Application**  
**For New ReadingPals Applicants (2 pages)**  
**2024/2025 School Year**

**Thank you for your commitment to serve as a ReadingPals school volunteer!**

*"ReadingPals is a statewide early literacy initiative that provides volunteer mentors for students from pre-K to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade who may need extra help. ReadingPals is managed by The Children's Movement of Florida and administered through 15 United Ways and local organizations— with the help of numerous community partners across the state."*

Please complete this paper application and send to [readingpals@uwcf.org](mailto:readingpals@uwcf.org), or mail to P.O. Box 1357, Highland City, FL 33846-1357.

<b>*Last Name:</b> Click or tap here to enter text.	<b>* First Name:</b>	<b>M.I.:</b>
<b>*Date of Birth (including year):</b>	<b>*Ethnicity:</b>	<b>Gender:</b>
<b>*Street:</b>	<b>*City:</b>	
<b>*State:</b>	<b>*Zip Code:</b>	
<b>*Email:</b>		<b>*Cell Phone:</b>
<b>*Home Phone:</b>		

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

Please check the school(s) and circle the day(s)/time that you would prefer to volunteer marking 1<sup>st</sup> choice, 2<sup>nd</sup>, etc.  
 Note: The ReadingPals schools/hours may be subject to change as they are fully confirmed later in the summer for the upcoming school year.

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|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Alta Vista Elementary</b><br>Haines City 33844<br>M, T, W, Th – 9:00–10:00 am  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Boswell Elementary</b><br>Auburndale 33823<br>M, T, W, Th – 8:00-9:00 am             | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Crystal Lake Elementary</b><br>Lakeland 33801<br>M, T, W, Th – 8:50-9:50 am                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Dixieland Elementary</b><br>Lakeland 33803<br>M, T, W, Th – 9:00-10:00 am      | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Highland City Elementary</b><br>Highland City 33846<br>M, T, W, Th – 9:00-10:00 am   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Jesse Keen Elementary</b><br>Lakeland 33815<br>M, T, W, Th – 11:00-12:00 or 12:00-1:00 PM  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Lake Shipp Elementary</b><br>Winter Haven 33880<br>M, T, W, Th – 9:00-10:00 am | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Lewis Elementary</b><br>Ft. Meade 33841<br>M, T, W, Th – 8:00-8:50 or 10:50-11:40 am | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Mi Escuela Montessori</b><br>Lakeland 33812<br>M, T, W, Th- 8:15-9:15 am                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Padgett Elementary</b><br>Lakeland 33809<br>M, T, W, Th – 9:00-10:00 am        | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Philip O'Brien Elementary</b><br>Lakeland 33801<br>M, T, W, Th - 9:00-10:00 am       | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Polk Avenue Elementary</b><br>Lake Wales 33853<br>M, T, W, Th – 9:30-10 30 am              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Purcell Elementary</b><br>Mulberry 33860<br>M. T, W, Th – 8:30-9:30 am         | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Stephens Elementary</b><br>Bartow 33830<br>M, T, W, Th – 8:30- 9:30 am               | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Willow Oak Elementary</b><br>Mulberry 33860<br>M, T, W, Th – 9:00-10:00 am or 1:50-2:50 PM |

### 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.

### Background Check

The School Board of Polk County requires volunteer applicants to undergo a Florida Department of Law Enforcement criminal background. [Get Involved | Polk County Public Schools \(polkschoolsfl.com\)](http://polkschoolsfl.com) .

### Instructions:

1. 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.
2. The Polk County School Board requires all volunteers to fill out an application online at [Get Involved | Polk County Public Schools \(polkschoolsfl.com\)](http://polkschoolsfl.com) . For Polk Avenue Elementary go to [polkave.net/becomeavolunteer](http://polkave.net/becomeavolunteer).
3. Pictures for security badges will be taken at your assigned school and picked up there.
4. All information will remain confidential.
5. The United Way of Central Florida reserves the right to accept or deny applicants to any affiliated volunteer program.

*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.*

### Media Release

\_\_\_\_\_ (Initial please) I agree to grant United Way of Central Florida, its assigns or successors and The Children’s Movement of Florida permission to use my image or voice for educational and/or promotional purposes, including, but not limited to emails, social media, newsletter, and our website.

## The Children’s Movement of Florida



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 early education in Florida.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The School Board of Polk County, Florida, prohibits all forms of discrimination and harassment based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin, marital status, age, homelessness, or disability or other basis prohibited by law in any of its programs, services, activities, or employment. To file your concerns, you may contact the Office of Equity & Compliance in the Human Resource Service Division at (863)534-0513

**For more information, go to [uwcf.org/readingpals](http://uwcf.org/readingpals)**