

VolunTEEN

Decatur Area Reader's Council

2019 - 2020 (September 2019 – April 2020)

General Information

The VolunTEEN Program is a community service initiative that offers middle and high school students an opportunity for civic involvement. VolunTEEN opportunities consist of two programs that focus on different goals; these programs are the Decatur Area Reader's Council and the Decatur Library Active Youth Volunteers.

Decatur Area Reader's Council is for students in grades 6 – 12 in the 2019 – 2020 academic year. The purpose of the Decatur Area Reader's Council is to allow teens in the Decatur and Wise County area to give feedback to the library including an opportunity to shape future classes and the direction of teen services in general. It is also a place to develop leadership skills, get to know fellow teens, and work collaboratively on a variety of projects. VolunTEENS will accumulate service hours for their contributions to the Decatur Area Reader's Council.

Opportunities for Earning Service Hours

There are a variety of ways to earn service hours as a VolunTEEN on the Decatur Area Reader's Council. If offered a position on the 2019 – 2020 Decatur Area Reader's Council, you will learn more about earning service hours at the first meeting in September.

Opportunities for service hours include:

- **Mandatory** attendance at scheduled Decatur Area Reader's Council meetings. Since the Decatur Area Reader's Council meets once a month, attendance at these meetings is extremely important. If you are unable to attend any or some of the meeting dates, please discuss the conflicts with the VolunTEEN Coordinator if you are still interested in applying to be a part of the group.
 - All mandatory meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month (unless stated otherwise during meetings) and begin promptly at 4:00pm.
 - Meetings are held in the Meeting Room at the front of the library unless stated otherwise.

Meeting Dates

Tuesday, September 17, 2019	4:30pm – 5:00pm
Tuesday, October 8, 2019	4:30pm – 5:30pm
Tuesday, November 12, 2019	4:30pm – 5:30pm
Tuesday, December 10, 2019	4:30pm – 5:30pm
Tuesday, January 14, 2020	4:30pm – 5:30pm
Tuesday, February 11, 2020	4:30pm – 5:30pm
Tuesday, March 10, 2020	4:30pm – 5:30pm
Tuesday, April 14, 2020	4:30pm – 5:30pm

- Reviewing a book in the library's Young Adult collection.
- Reviewing a library class or event for teens.
- Examples of ways to earn additional service hours include attending non-mandatory meetings, participating in service drives, and assisting with library events.

How to Apply for the Decatur Area Reader's Council

To be considered for the Decatur Area Reader's Council for the 2019 – 2020 school year, you must submit a completed application. Applications will not be returned after submission.

Please turn in your completed applications at the Front Desk of the Decatur Public Library no later than 8:00 pm on Friday, September 6, 2019. Applications will not be accepted after this deadline.

Candidate Selection

Space is limited and submitting an application does not guarantee selection. Due to the high level of demand for volunteer opportunities, the library will not be able to accommodate everyone who applies. Recommendations for finding additional volunteer opportunities in the area include:

- Looking at the City of Decatur's website for other City sponsored volunteer opportunities.
- Applying to volunteer at Decatur Family Services or contacting an animal shelter or rescue group.
- Using volunteer matching sites.
- Asking a guidance counselor or service organization leader at your school for ideas.

Candidates will be notified via email by 6 pm on Friday, September 13, 2019 regarding the status of their application for the 2019 – 2020 Decatur Area Reader's Council.

Questions


If you have any questions after reading the information provided about the 2019 – 2020 Decatur Area Reader's Council or about the application itself, contact the VolunTEEN Coordinator, Dawn Wilbert, via email at dwilbert@decaturtx.org.

Remove this page before submitting your application and keep it for your records.

VolunTEEN Application

Decatur Area Reader's Council

2019 - 2020 (September 2019 - April 2020)

	<p>PLEASE WRITE YOUR REPOSES NEATLY.</p> <p>IF WE CANNOT EASILY READ YOUR RESPONSES, THEY WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED AS PART OF YOUR APPLICATION.</p> <p>You are welcome to brainstorm ideas with family or friends but the application should be completed by the teen applying for the Decatur Area Reader's Council.</p> <p>When providing an email address, use an email address that you (the teen applicant) will check regularly. Primary communication for either VolunTEEN program is between the VolunTEEN and the VolunTEEN Coordinator as a way to provide teens an opportunity to become more accountable for themselves.</p>
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Applicant's Information

First Name	Last Name	Gender	Birthdate (Month/Day/Year)
			_ / _ / _
Street Address			City of Residence
School Attending for 2019 - 2020			
Grade Level for 2019 - 2020	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 9 <input type="checkbox"/> 10 <input type="checkbox"/> 11 <input type="checkbox"/> 12		
Applicant's Email Address <i>(This should be an email address the APPLICANT checks regularly)</i>			

Applicant's Volunteer History

Have you previously volunteered at Decatur Public Library?

- Yes, I have volunteered at Decatur Public Library.
When? (Ex: Spring 2017 & Summer 2017) _____
- No, I have not volunteered at Decatur Public Library before.

For which program are you applying

- Decatur Area Reader's Council

Application continued on back of page.

Applicant's Commitments and Activities

List all of your commitments that could affect your ability to participate with the Decatur Area Reader's Council. Examples include vacations, school commitments, job commitments, extracurricular activities, or hobbies. If you need more space, please list additional commitments on another sheet of paper.

EXAMPLES

Commitment	Day(s) / Time(s) / Frequency	Notes or Comments
Driving School	Tuesdays, 6-8pm	November - January
Family vacation	November 21 - 26	Visiting Disney World with my family.
Band	Weekdays until 8pm	All of the fall semester
Part-time job	3 days per week, varies	Shifts vary
Orchestra concert	October 20, 7pm	

Commitment	Day(s) / Time(s) / Frequency	Notes or Comments

Open Response Questions

Tips for this section:

- **All questions must be answered.** Clearly identify which question you are answering before each response.
- Carefully consider your responses. Some questions only need a paragraph for an answer while some questions should probably be answered with several paragraphs.
- Applicants are welcome to brainstorm ideas with family or friends but the responses should be in the words of the teen applying to join the Decatur Area Reader's Council.
- Handwritten responses on notebook paper are accepted but it is recommended that you type your responses so you can proofread and edit them. Typing your responses also guarantees that the VolunTEEN Coordinator will be able to read them.
- Attach a copy of your responses to the questions below to the end of your application. *Please include your first and last name on any additional pages.*

1. Describe a detailed example of an idea for a program, class, or event you think teens would enjoy attending at the library.
2. Why do you need service hours? Why did you decide to apply for the Decatur Area Reader's Council?
3. Why should you be selected to serve on this year's Decatur Area Reader's Council? What skills can you bring to the table when working with a committee to plan and implement the Decatur Area Reader's Council events and projects?

Optional: Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?