



FAQ about Library VolunTeens

What volunteer opportunities are available for teens?

Our VolunTeen initiative is year-round, which means that teens ages 13 to 17* have the opportunity to earn community service hours by becoming a VolunTeen up to two times a year! Charlotte Mecklenburg Library is looking for responsible teens who enjoy working with the public, helping others, and giving back to their community. *If you are 18, you must be enrolled as a high school student. Otherwise, please apply for the adult volunteer program. While there are a limited number of opportunities, all locations are participating.

When and how can I apply?

Applications are only accepted twice a year. On April 15th for the Summer semester and on August 15th for the School Year. It is possible that some locations may be accepting applications for the Spring on January 1st as needed, though we're shifting to a School Year model. During application cycles, please apply on the [Volunteer page](#). Click on *Become a Volunteer* and search for "VolunTeen" opportunities. Applications will be accepted for up to two weeks as designated or until a branch has reached capacity.

What if I don't see the library location I'm interested in?

If you do not see a position posted for your preferred location, then a position is no longer available, and you will need to apply to another location. You may only apply to one location per semester.

If I apply, does that mean I will be accepted into the program?

No, applying does not guarantee acceptance into the program. After you apply, someone from the library will contact you to set up an interview if you meet all qualifications. Either way, a library staff member will let you know the status of your application. If you wish to inquire about it, please reach out to the branch where you applied to follow up.

What do VolunTeens assist with?

VolunTeens have a variety of opportunities available dependent upon the location. Some examples are shelving materials, creating book displays or booklists, helping with program prep, assisting with programs, homework help, tech tutoring, or special projects.

What is the time commitment for volunteering?

VolunTeens are expected to earn at least 20 hours in the Summer and 40 hours during the School Year, which is equivalent to a 2-hour shift once a week. VolunTeens are committing to the entire semester. While vacations and other time off are allowed with advance notice, it is

not permissible to earn all of the hours in a shorter period of time. If you need additional hours, you may be redirected to other opportunities in the community.

Can I work different days and times each week?

The library relies on our volunteers to commit to a set schedule each week. We want to be prepared for you and we also find that coming in weekly helps retain what you have learned.

What are the qualifications for volunteering?

Qualifications: For teens aged 13 to 17. If an applicant is 18, they must be enrolled in high school or apply for the adult volunteer program. Charlotte Mecklenburg Library is looking for teens that enjoy working with the public, helping others, and giving back to their community. Safety for all employees, volunteers, and customers is extremely important. While proof of COVID-19 vaccination is no longer required, we do have safety protocols in place.

If I was a VolunTeen in a previous semester, do I have to reapply?

Yes, you will need to apply each semester that you would like to serve as a VolunTeen, whether it is at the same library location, or a new one. This will give you more experience with job readiness skills, and also allow everyone an equal opportunity to apply and participate in the VolunTeen program.

Can I earn community service hours for school by being a VolunTeen?

Yes, we will offer a certificate of completion at the end of the semester. In addition, library staff are more than willing to sign off on community service hours that were earned at the library. Be sure to provide library staff with enough time and notice to complete these verifications for you.

Are there other ways to earn community service at the library for teens?

Yes, there are two other ways that you can earn community service hours aside from our Library VolunTeen program. One is by participating in a library program such as a Community Service Project, Teen Advisory Council, or Teen Newsletter that can be searched on our [online calendar](#). The second is by participating in our Virtual Volunteering opportunity available on our [Teen Digital Branch](#). This opportunity allows teens to earn 1 hour of community service by creating content for our CMLibrary Teens Instagram with the ability to earn up to 10 hours total. There are additional details along with more instructions on that page by clicking on the links.

Other questions regarding teens and volunteering?

Contact Holly Summers-Gil, Senior Program Manager - Teen Services, hsummers@cmlibrary.org

Questions about adult volunteers, court-referred volunteering, or community groups?

Contact Chauna Wall, Volunteer Manager, cwall@cmlibrary.org