Writers’ Exchange is a charity that gets inner-city kids excited about reading and writing through fun, engaging and wacky activities.

We are now recruiting volunteer Literacy Mentors for winter programs, which begin in early January. For more details, check out vancouverwe.com/volunteerwinter2019.

Deadline for the January - March term applications is Monday, Dec. 17th.

If you love reading, writing and working with kids, then join our team of volunteer mentors! You can have fun while helping kids build their literacy skills and self-esteem through tutoring and creative writing projects. We encourage volunteer applications from a wide range of backgrounds.

“Many of the kids we work with face tremendous challenges. Sometimes, when they start, they are really uncertain and tentative and maybe even disruptive, but now I know that just by being there and offering them kindness, a continual fresh start and enthusiasm for reading and writing, you can yield really inspiring results.”—Joe, volunteer mentor
Who can volunteer? Anyone who:

- Pinky swears to attend one in-school program per term (1.5 hours / week for 4 - 5 weeks) and/or the same weekly two-hour shift in an after-school program for at least one full term (10 - 15 weeks). Priority will be given to volunteers who can commit for two or more terms. Our terms run from September - December, January - March, April - June, and July - August.
- Possesses most or all 15 of the following qualities: adaptable, committed, compassionate, consistent, flexible, friendly, fun, genuine, kind, love to learn, open-minded, relaxed, team player, trustworthy, and understanding.
- Thrives in a space that is loud, fun, energetic, and constantly changing.
- Has a genuine enthusiasm to connect with awesome kids over glue and glitter!
- Is eager to participate in ongoing training activities
- Is at least 16 years old

How do I become a volunteer? You must complete:

1. an application form—once we receive this we can help you with the rest of the steps
2. a criminal record check—free for anyone with a BC government-issued ID
3. a three-hour orientation session—where you’ll learn about the cool activities we do, what a typical shift looks like, safety stuff and some tips to make you a great mentor
4. an hour-and-a-half training session that focuses on how to support the kids' emotional, social and behavioral needs

We encourage applications from people from diverse backgrounds, including LGBTTIQQ2SA folks, Indigenous peoples, people of all colours, immigrants and refugees, people with disabilities or another equity-seeking group with which you identify.

This is an especially great volunteering opportunity if you’re thinking about becoming a teacher, social worker, child psychologist or working with children or youth in any capacity and want to gain concrete skills, experience and hours working with kids. It’s also an energizing break from your daily routine, a great way to make connections and build community, and a fun, meaningful opportunity to work with kids who need your support.

Deadline for winter program applications is Monday, Dec. 17th.

Check out vancouverwe.com/volunteerwinter2019 for more details, or contact our Volunteer Manager at sjhamilton@vancouverwe.com.