



2018-2019 Steinbeck Young Authors Coach Request

The National Steinbeck Center invites you to join us as a one-day Volunteer Writing Coach for the 2018-2019 Steinbeck Young Authors Program.

About the program:

The Steinbeck Young Authors Program encourages middle school students to read and discuss Steinbeck's short story, "The Gift" (part of *The Red Pony*) as well as to enhance their writing skills. The program consists of three stages: a classroom component of reading, discussing and pre-writing; the Day of Writing event for teacher-nominated students—where they write an essay and are coached by local volunteers; and an Awards Ceremony in late April.

The Day of Writing is an occasion to focus on student writing and revision. Students also participate in hands-on experiences relating to *The Red Pony* during their day at the Center. The full day at the NSC demonstrates to students that good writing skills matter; that stories connect readers to human experiences; and that community coaches are eager to discuss writing with student writers. Ultimately, the essays they complete will be judged and awarded by a panel of qualified judges. Your aid will help them compete and improve!

Get involved:

Please consider volunteering as a writing coach for the March 2019 Steinbeck Young Authors Day of Writing. Students will attend one day of writing, and coaches may volunteer for one day: **Monday, March 4, 2019 from 10:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

The day consists of:

- 10:45 AM: Arrive, sign in, grab coffee and a snack
- 11:00 AM: Attend the Volunteer Writing Coach training, prepare your name tags
- 11:45 AM: Meet one-on-one with your assigned student, enjoy lunch together, pose for the picture which will appear in the student's anthology, the Gabilan Journal, and discuss the student's essay
- 1:30 PM: Complete an evaluation form that will help with ongoing development of the Steinbeck Young Authors Program
- 1:35 PM: You're done! Be sure to stay in touch with your student, your support is greatly admired and appreciated!

This year we need 120 coaches! We hope you can share some of your time and talent with us!

Thank you for your support of Steinbeck Young Authors!

Sincerely,

The Education Team, NSC: Tara Spada & Julie Minnis
programs@steinbeck.org