



## Steinbeck Young Authors Middle School Program COACH INFORMATION LETTER 2019-2020

The National Steinbeck Center (NSC) invites you to join us as a Volunteer Writing Coach for the 2019-2020 Steinbeck Young Authors Middle School Writing Program.

### **About the program:**

The Steinbeck Young Authors Program encourages middle school students to read and discuss Steinbeck's *The Red Pony* as well as enhance their writing skills. In addition, teachers this year supported a new initiative to include teaching Steinbeck's *The Pearl*. 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* and *The Pearl* 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 are judged and awards are determined by a panel of qualified judges. Your support will assist students to improve their writing!

### **Get involved:**

Please consider volunteering as a writing coach for the March 2020 Steinbeck Young Authors Day(s) of Writing. Based on their school location, students will attend one of two Days of Writing. The dates are as follows:

***Monday, March 2, 2020 at the National Steinbeck Center  
and  
Thursday, March 5, 2020 at the Greenfield Union School District Center***

### **The day consists of:**

- **Step 1:** Arrive, sign in, grab coffee and attend the Volunteer Writing Coach Orientation
- **Step 2:** Meet one-on-one with your assigned student, enjoy lunch together, pose for the picture which will appear in the SYA anthology, the Gabilan Journal, and discuss the student's draft essay
- **Step 3:** Complete an evaluation form that will help with ongoing development of the Steinbeck Young Authors Program and you're done! Your support is greatly appreciated!

\*\*For anyone who wishes to attend a more in-depth training on how to be an effective writing coach, you can choose to attend a training workshop at either:

***Greenfield School District Office, 493 El Camino Real Greenfield CA, Thursday, February 20, 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. or 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.***

***National Steinbeck Center, One Main Street, Salinas, CA, Friday, February 21, 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. or Saturday, February 22, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.***

**We hope you can share your time and talent with us!**

Cordially,  
The NSC Education Team  
[SYA@steinbeck.org](mailto:SYA@steinbeck.org)