



Summer Reading Challenge Tips & Tricks for Caregivers

Do I have to input the book title and author into Beanstack for every book read?

Readers age 11 and younger do not need to list the book title and author for every book, as they are only tracking the total number of minutes read during the Summer Reading Challenge.

Readers age 12 and 17 however, should include the book title and author for every book read, as they are tracking the total number of books read in the Summer Reading Challenge.

Why do 12 to 17 year olds count books read instead of minutes like the younger youth?

This was changed a few years ago after we received feedback from teenagers that they did not like being treated like younger kids. They asked to be treated more like the adults, who track number of books read for the Challenge. We appreciated this feedback and have been pleased with the growing participation among teens each summer.

My teen reads extremely thick books, but reads slowly, so completing a book can be a struggle. How can I encourage their efforts in the Summer Reading Challenge?

The Summer Reading Challenge should be fun and encourage a love of reading. It should not discourage efforts or feel stressful for readers of varying abilities. We're excited that your teen is reading! We also trust you as the caregiver and know that you know the amount of effort and time your teen has put into reading. If you need to amend the Challenge logging to work for your teen's efforts, then please do so! Here's an example: last year a teen chose to read the Bible over the summer. We encouraged his caregiver to count each testament as a completed book or to pick a smaller goal of 300 pages to count as a "read book." Thank you for fostering your child's interest in a way that helps them participate and love reading!

Do I have to log on to the software every day to participate?

You can log in as often as you would like. Some caregivers log daily while others prefer to log in weekly and log all of the reading done that week at one time. The choice is up to you. Just be sure to have everything logged before the Summer Reading Challenge ends on August 4th!

Why do I need to include my phone number and email on my Beanstack account?

Phone numbers and/or email addresses are necessary in order for MRL to contact winners of raffle prizes at the end of the Challenge. Raffle winners will be contacted during the week of August 12th. Please know that your personal contact information is never shared outside of MRL.

Is there a wrong way to do Summer Reading?

The only wrong way is to not do Summer Reading at all! We find that caregivers often adjust reading programs to work with the literacy goals they have for their child. For example, if the child's reading goal is fluency skills, a caregiver may choose to count the time spent by the child reading aloud and not the time when the child listens to a book being read to them. At MRL, we believe that reading is for everyone and all types of reading counts in the Challenge! This includes physical books, audiobooks, comic books, newspapers, magazines etc. all count toward increasing literacy skills and encouraging lifelong learning. The point of the Challenge is that your child is reading, working on individual goals, and building literacy skills. We trust you as caregiver as you set goals that work for your child!

Are paper logs available?

MRL encourages all participants to use Beanstack to log their reading for the program. We do have paper logs available at every MRL branch for anyone who would like one. We recognize that some caregivers choose paper logs to enable their children to track their reading without using a screen, and then the caregiver enters the paper record later into Beanstack. Families without access to technology or who choose to limit technology at home are welcome to bring paper logs into an MRL branch and have MRL staff input the information into Beanstack. This will ensure that the child's reading progress is recorded for the Challenge and that the reader will be eligible for prizes. *Please note: although MRL staff is happy to assist in logging reading for a patron, this method may result in a delay in obtaining prizes and may make it more difficult to redeem tickets for the raffle drawings. Thank you for your understanding!*

How will I know if my child has earned/won a prize?

Beanstack will alert you with a badge when your child has accumulated enough points to earn a prize for every 2 hours read (ages 0-11) and every book complete (ages 12-17). You can pick up these prizes at your local branch. There are also raffle prizes at the end of the Challenge. Readers will earn "tickets" through Beanstack that they can enter the prize drawing of their choice. These can be split among prizes or all put into one raffle. To see this year's prizes and to learn more about tickets, head to www.mrlib.org/src. Winners of raffle drawings will be contacted the week of August 12th.

If my children pick up prizes at different MRL branches and/or at different times, will they each get the same prize?

We are grateful for our community partners who donate prizes to our Summer Reading Challenge! Prizes are based on availability and while supplies last. Some MRL Branches may have different coupons based on donations received from their community's local businesses. As the supply of prizes from one business is exhausted, a different prize may be substituted in its place. We thank you for your understanding!

I know a business who could support Summer Reading. Whom should I contact?

Please contact Mary Golden Hughes, MRL Director of Advancement, at mghughes@mrlib.org

Have another question about the Summer Reading Challenge that is not covered here?

For readers ages 0-17, please contact Denise Munro, Head of Youth Services, at dmunro@mrlib.org.

For readers ages 18+, please contact Kayla Grose, Adult Services Librarian, at kgrose@mrlib.org.

Thank you for your support of the 2024 Summer Reading Challenge at MRL!