Press and Publicity Report

MAY 2021

Pueblo Library hoping for money from Federal Rescue Plan to fund summer reading challenge

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The library district hopes the city and county governments can provide 500-thousand dollars a piece to help fund the summer reading challenge.

Summer Reading Challenge- KOAA

For the story, visit:
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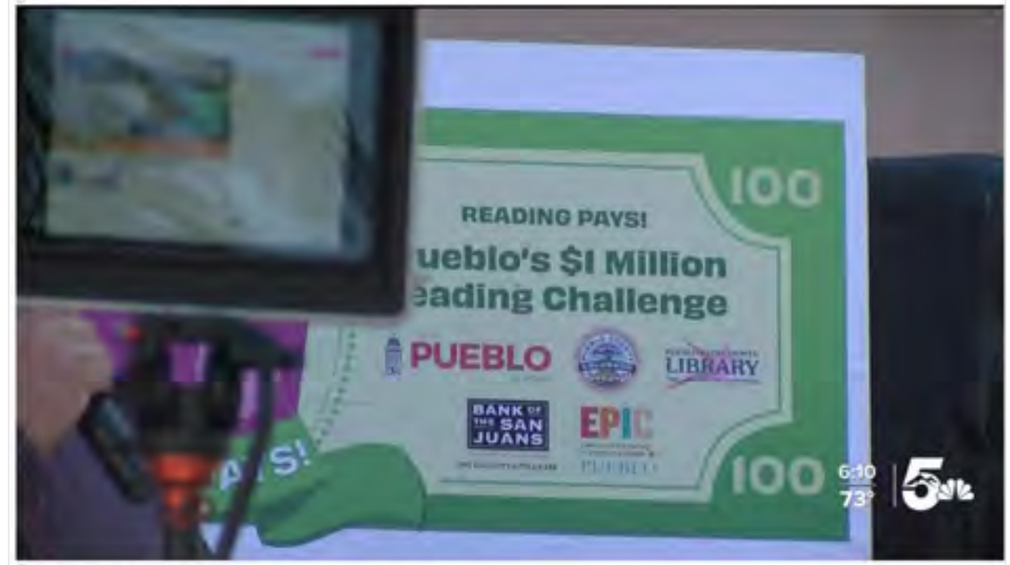
Pueblo Library District kicks of $1 million Reading Challenge



The Pueblo Library District kicked off its one million dollar summer reading challenge today

By Tyler Duncan
Posted at 9:40 PM, May 28, 2021
and last updated 2021-05-28 23:40:18-04

PUEBLO — The Pueblo Library District kicked off its $1 million Summer Reading Challenge Friday.

Non-profit POSADA held the event to sign up kids for the reading program.

Thanks to contributions from Pueblo City and County governments, students in Pueblo County under the age of 18 can earn $100 by checking out 10 items from any of the Pueblo libraries and then providing a response to the Library District about what they read.

The program runs from June through August.

For more information visit the Pueblo Library District web page.

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FOX21 NEWS STORM NOW

LOCAL

Kids in Pueblo can earn $100 a month by reading this summer

In this Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2014 photo, an English language learner student uses his finger to follow along while reading a story at Watford City Elementary School in Watford City, N.D. (AP Photo/Eric Gay)

By: Angela Case
Posted: May 28, 2021 / 01:38 PM MDT / Updated: May 28, 2021 / 01:38 PM MDT

PUEBLO, Colo. — The Pueblo City-County Library District is giving kids the chance to win $100 a month by reading this summer.

The reading challenge starts June 1 and runs through August 31. It's open to Pueblo County youth between ages 0 to 17 who have a valid PCCLD library card or ConnectEd account.

To earn the $100, participants must check out 10 items in person from any PCCLD location or download items from the library's online catalog. They then must provide a response by writing, drawing, or filming a video in response to what they read, listened to, or watched. All responses are submitted online.

To register for the program go to pueblolibrary.org/readingpays. Registration is on a first come first served basis and is limited to the first 3,000

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Pueblo city libraries offer challenge allow kids to earn $100 for reading this summer

Registration opens June 1, 2021

By KKTV
Published: May 28, 2021 at 10:47 AM MDT

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PUEBLO, Colo. (KKTV) - Kids in Pueblo County have the chance to earn $100 this summer just by reading.

The city says this challenge is open to kids in Pueblo County kids between the ages of 0 and 17 who have a valid PCCLD library card or ConnectEd account. In order to win the $100, kids must check out 10 items in person from any PCCLD location or download the items from the library's catalog. Then they need to write, draw, or film a video in response to what they read, listened to, or watched.

This program is reportedly using $1 million in funding from the City of Pueblo and Pueblo County and is part of the American Rescue Plan to help the city rebound from COIVD-19.

According to Pueblo Mayor Nick Gradisar, "The Reading Pays program has multiple purposes. Our intent first and foremost is to help bridge some of the educational gap that exists from the last school year dealing with COVID-19. Reading is the key to lifelong learning and we want those skills developed early. It is also a great way to introduce young people to the concept of bank accounts and the value of savings. The added bonus is that it's a stimulus for the economy."

The challenge starts June 1 and runs until August 31. You can register for the program here.

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By Kerjan Bianca

May 28, 2021 9:51 AM

Published May 28, 2021 8:46 AM

Pueblo library to launch $1 Million Dollar Reading Challenge

PUEBLO, Colo. (KRDO) -- Pueblo County youth have the chance to earn $100 this summer by reading. Thanks to $1 million in funding from the City of Pueblo and Pueblo County, Pueblo City-County Library District is offering area youth the chance to take part in Reading Pays: Pueblo's $1 Million Reading Challenge.

The challenge starts June 1 and runs through August 31. It is open to Pueblo County youth between ages 0 to 17 who have a valid PCCLD library card or ConnectEd account. To register for the program, participants can go to www.pueblolibrary.org/readingpays. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis and is limited to the first 3,000 participants each month of the program – June, July, and August.

The $1 million funding is part of the American Rescue Plan to help Pueblo rebound from the effects of COVID-19. All funds will directly impact area youth, the library district will not keep any of the funds for administrative fees.

"The $1 Million Pueblo Summer Reading Challenge is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity made possible by federal American Rescue Plan funds. The 2021 American Rescue Plan is a $1.9 trillion national coronavirus rescue package intended to facilitate the United States' recovery from the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic," said PCCLD Executive Director Jon Walker.

To earn the $100, participants must check out 10 items in person from any PCCLD location or download items from the library's online catalog. They then must provide a response by writing, drawing or filming a video in response to what they read, listened to or watched. All responses are submitted online to www.pueblolibrary.org/readingpays.

To continue participating during the summer, youth must re-register for each month of the program's duration. Only one registration, and only one completion form per participant will be accepted each month of the program. To receive their $100, participants can opt to create a savings account at Bank of the San Juans or request a cash voucher.

According to Pueblo Mayor Nick Gradisar, "The Reading Pays program has multiple purposes. Our intent first and foremost is to help bridge some of the educational gap that exists from the last school year dealing with COVID-19. Reading is the key to lifelong learning and we want those skills developed early. It is also a great way to introduce young people to the concept of bank accounts and the value of savings. The added bonus is that it's a stimulus for the economy."

Community partners in the Reading Pays program include the city and county of Pueblo, the library district, Bank of the San Juans and EPIC of Pueblo.

"We are enthused to partner with the city on this important project that promotes reading and financial literacy in the community during the summer," said Pueblo County Commissioner Garrison Ortiz.

In addition to earning the $100, participants can take home books donated by EPIC of Pueblo. The organization donated 9,000 books to the library district in support of Reading Pays.

Walker added, "I am pleased the Pueblo City-County Library can assist in this in partnership with the City of Pueblo, Pueblo County, both local school districts, EPIC-Pueblo, and a number of other local public and private organizations."

To learn more about PCCLD, visit www.pueblolibrary.org. To get a library card, visit any PCCLD location.

Local News / News / Video

Kerjan Bianca

Kerjan is the weekend morning anchor and reporter for KRDO. Learn more about Kerjan here

NEWS

Here's how Pueblo County children can earn $100 for reading over the summer

Sara Wilson The Pueblo Chieftain

Published 7:00 a.m. MT Nov 28, 2021

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Pueblo is using part of its American Rescue Plan funds to encourage young readers to pick up a few books this summer through a $1 million effort to close the education gap created by school interruptions, and pump some money back into local businesses.

The Pueblo City-County Library District's "Reading Pays" program gives children under the age of 18 the opportunity to earn $100 by checking out 10 items over the summer.

PCCLD Board of Trustees president Fredrick Quintana said it will "not only support local young people practicing their reading skills this summer, but also assist our community in responding to COVID-19's disruption to local education and support the recovery of our local economy."

"We're excited that the American Rescue Plan Act has provided a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to use relief funds to provide economic incentive to households with children in such a unique way after such a devastating pandemic," he said.

The program is funded by both the city and county, each entity contributing some of its recent COVID-19 recovery funds for a total pool of $1 million. It's the first project in Pueblo utilizing that stimulus money, which is meant to address the negative economic impacts of the pandemic.

"I couldn't be prouder that the first use of these rescue funds that we got from the federal government is being used for our young people," Mayor Nick Gradisar said.

The city or county hasn't announced any other projects using the money just yet, though the city is looking for volunteers for its seven American Rescue Plan-specific task forces.

The reading runs through June 1 and August 31 and is open to children with a valid PCCLD library card or ConnectEd account. Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis for the first 3,000 sign-ups during each month.

"That's 9,000 kids in our community getting $100, which is so great," said Nick Potter, the director of community relations for PCCLD.

In addition, EPIC-Pueblo donated 9,000 books to the library for every reader to keep.

After participants read the 10 books — or watch the 10 documentaries, since all library items are eligible — they must provide a response summarizing what they learned. That can either be a short essay, drawing or video submitted online through the library's website.

They can then choose between a cash voucher or opening a minor savings account through Bank of the San Juans. There's incentive to keep the money in savings: Bank of the San Juans will deposit $10 into those newly-opened accounts that maintain an average balance of $50 for six months.

"Teaching our children how to save, how to interact with the banking system at such a young age, I just think that's a wonderful touch on the program," Pueblo Board of County Commissioners Chairman Garrison Ortiz said.

There have been close to 200 children already pre-registered for the program.

Jace Pool, 6, already had a stack of books picked out on Friday morning, including "7 ate 9," "You Wouldn't Want to Live Without Bees" and "Monsters Valentine."

"I was impressed to see kids getting $100 to come read. If it takes a little bit of that motivation to get them to read all summer, that's ok," said Jimmie Pool, Jace's father and the principal at Carlile Elementary School.

To get a library card, visit any branch location. You can register for the summer reading program beginning June 1 online at pueblolibrary.org/readingpays or in person at any PCCLD branch.

Celebrate the 3-day weekend: Here are four things to do in Pueblo over Memorial Day weekend

Chieftain reporter Sara Wilson can be reached via email at SWilson@gannett.com or on Twitter @WilsonSaraJane.