
Press and Publicity Report

JUNE 2022



15 schools in Pueblo will be serving free summer lunches starting next month



James Bartolo The Pueblo Chieftain

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Deidra Roberts prepares lunch for Heaton Middle School students in the cafeteria on Wednesday, May 25. James Bartolo

Pueblo School District 60 will be serving free lunches at 16 schools and 11 mobile sites as part of this year's summer lunch program, which starts June 6.

Serving free lunch during the summer, when school is out, is vital to ensuring community access to food, Pueblo D60 Director of Nutrition Services Dana Elkins Greene said.

"For some of our students, the two meals they eat at school are... the only two meals that they may get in a day," she said.

Breakfast and lunch are served to all Pueblo D60 students free of charge during the school year under the Colorado Department of Education's Community Eligibility Program. Three-quarters of students in the district, which covers the city of Pueblo, qualify for free school meals.

Healthy School Meals for All: Colorado voters will decide in November whether to provide free meals to students

Lunches offered through the Pueblo D60 summer lunch program will be free for all children 18 and under, regardless of which school they attend or which district they're in. Adults can purchase lunch for \$5.

"All meals have to be eaten on-site as opposed to the last two years with COVID where people could pick up lunch and take it home," Elkins Greene said.

Free lunches will be available at Central High School, Minnequa Elementary, Park View Elementary, Irving Elementary, Cesar Chavez Academy, Dolores Huerta Preparatory High School, Pueblo Academy of Arts, Roncalli STEM Academy and Corwin International Magnet School.

Dutch Clark Digital Online at Paragon, Beulah Heights Elementary, Bessemer Elementary, East High School, Franklin Academy of Innovation, Heaton Middle School, Irving Elementary and Ersila Cruz Middle School will also be offering free lunches.

All those schools will serve lunch from 12-1 p.m., Monday through Thursday, from June 6 to July 28, with the exception of Dolores Huerta Preparatory High School, where the last day of free summer lunches will be July 14.

More: [Don't tell the kids, but Halfway Home Pueblo's summer program is educational, too](#)

Mobile lunch locations include Barkman, Lucero, Lamb and Rawlings libraries, St. Anne's Church, El Pueblo History Museum, Bradford Park, El Centro del Quinto Sol and the YMCA of Pueblo, according to the [Pueblo D60 website](#).

Mobile sites will be open Monday through Friday until July 29. Times at mobile sites vary. A list of times for mobile sites can be viewed on the [Pueblo D60 website](#).

Through a partnership with the Pueblo City-County Library District, Pueblo D60 also will serve free lunch at "Books in the Park" events at Ray Aguilera Park in Bessemer, and Fairmount Park.

Books in the Park will be held June 10 through Aug. 9 at Ray Aguilera Park Monday through Wednesday and at Fairmount Park, on W. 29th St., on Thursday and Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. [Pueblo City-County Library District says on its website](#).

Pueblo Chieftain reporter James Bartolo can be reached by email at JBartolo@gannett.com

Things to do in Pueblo: Virtual forum for District 3 primary candidates, summer reading

The Pueblo Chieftain

Published 3:42 p.m. MT June 2, 2022

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Go to Puebloevents.net for an extensive list of things to do in and around Pueblo. We've selected a few that are happening in the coming days for you here. For the summer months, we've added to this list to include things to do within an hour's drive of Pueblo.

Friday, June 3

NOON DEADLINE to submit questions for Congressional District 3 candidates | [Submit questions](#) for the three Republicans and two Democrats who are running to be their parties' candidates in

November for the U.S. House of Representatives seat, currently held by Rep. Lauren Boebert. The candidates

will take part in a **forum** on Wednesday, June 8, sponsored by the **League of Women Voters**. [Submit questions online](#) using the form at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSffGH->

[QtuCtwIP38W5I16fqujRogXmKNUBDnEMKdGhmsIueow/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSffGH-). More information is available at www.lwvcolorado.org/cd3forum.

Summer Reading Carnival Kickoff, Grome Park, 159 Jewell Ave. | Get your summer off to a great, productive start with a carnival in the park.

Starts at **5:30 p.m.** with an aerial acrobatics performance by Salida Circus. They'll perform again at 7 p.m. There will also be goats and piglets at the **FARMily petting zoo**, and carnival games with prizes. Vendors and food trucks will also be present at this **free event**, which is open to the public. Overflow parking is available at Rawlings Library. Sponsored by Pueblo Parks and Recreation and Pueblo City-County Library District. For more information, visit www.pueblolibrary.org.



A boy draws a picture at "Good Grief!" kids camp. The first camp this summer will be held on June 10 in Canon City. Courtesy Photo



Top Stories

By [KRDO News](#)

Published June 6, 2022 3:25 PM



Books in the Park returns to Pueblo for summertime reading opportunities for children

PUEBLO, Colo. (KRDO) -- Beginning Monday, young Pueblo readers can enjoy free books in the park for the summer.

According to the Pueblo City-County Library District, the program has been running since 2004 when the late city Councilman Ray Aguilera suggested bringing library services to children who might not otherwise have the opportunity to visit a library.

Books in the Park uses withdrawn and donated books allowing any child to complete the Summer Reading Club gameboards even if they don't have a library card.

In addition to an opportunity to access books, children will be able to participate in crafts, enjoy free lunches, and at the chance to pick out three free books to keep.

Books in the Park happens at two locations:

- Ray Aguilera Park
 - Monday through Wednesday between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.
 - Family Storytime is at 11 a.m.
- Fairmount Park
 - Thursday and Friday between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.
 - On Thursday the Family Storytime is at 11 a.m.
 - On Friday, there is a Family Performer at 11 a.m.

For more information, [click here](#).

News

By [KRDO News](#)

today at 8:53 AM

Published [June 7, 2022](#) 8:51 AM



Library district awarded Certificate of Achievement



KRDO

PUEBLO COUNTY, Colo. (KRDO) -- The Government Finance Officers Association has honored Pueblo City-County Library District (PCCLD) excellence in its 2020 annual comprehensive financial report.

It's a significant accomplishment by its management and a government.

The library district's report demonstrates a constructive "spirit of full closure," meeting the highest standards of the program.

Practice research covers more than 21,000 members and provides the best practices, professional development, and resources.

News

By [Barbara Fox](#)

[June 15, 2022](#) 3:37 PM

Published [June 15, 2022](#) 2:28 PM



Pueblo's \$1 Million Reading Pays Challenge to return for second year



Courtesy of Nick Potter

Participants in the program in 2021

PUEBLO, Colo. (KRDO) -- A program meant to encourage youth in the community to read over summer break by giving them a chance to earn money is coming back to Pueblo.

Monday, the Pueblo City Council approved the \$1 million summer reading challenge, Reading Pace, for a second time. In 2021, funding from the American Rescue Plan was used to create the Reading Pays: Pueblo's \$1 Million Reading Challenge.

Many people in the community showed up to Monday's meeting to give support to the program and convince city leaders to vote "yes." Councilwoman Heather Graham said she was initially against the program.

"I was originally going to turn down this because ARPA funds are supposed to be a self-sustaining project, that is one of the big guidelines," explained Graham. "But to see this many people show up and speak in favor of something that has been positive for our community, I can see it's helping a lot of kids out."

In 2021, the Board of County Commissioners, the Pueblo City Council, and Pueblo Mayor Nick Gradišar created the program as an opportunity for the library district to be able to offer the community a program that gives children incentives to read.

The reading program challenges children to check out 10 books and do one reading activity. The reading activity can be anything from writing an essay to making a YouTube video. After completing the challenge, the reader receives \$100.

The program will once again be paid for by the second round of the COVID-19 American Rescue Funds.

Nick Potter, the Director of Community Relations and Development for the Pueblo City Library District, said this program is a great way to keep youth in the community reading through the summer months.

"This program is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for kids or really a twice-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our community and for our library district where we're paying kids to stay engaged for the Summer," said Potter.

Last year, more than 7,000 kids completed the program. Potter said he hopes for more kids to take advantage of the program this year.

Potter said while participating in this program, kids do more than just read, they also learn how to handle money.

"We were able to work with kids and kinda give them financial literacy pieces where they understood the concept of earning money, the concept of saving money," said Potter.

The official sign-ups are not available yet but Potter said it will be in the next couple of weeks. To keep up to date about announcements, [click here](#).



Reading program returns to Pueblo Library District



By: [Carl Winder](#)

Posted at 3:40 PM, Jun 23, 2022
and last updated 2022-06-23 17:40:45-04

PUEBLO, CO — A million-dollar reading program is back in Pueblo.

The Pueblo Library District just received \$500,000 each from Pueblo City and County Governments.

The program is open to children younger than 17 years old and participants can earn \$100 if they check out 10 books and submit a presentation to the Library District about what they learned.

"It's great to have reading pays comeback it was such a popular program there was so much interaction between the library district and kids who had never come into one of our library locations," said Ann Boyden with the Pueblo City-County Library District.

The program is happening until August 31, [click here](#) to sign up.

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Read to \$100: Reading Pays returns for a second year



Pueblo City-County Library District is resuming in-person services in late January 2021. (KKTV)

By [KKTV](#)

Published: Jun. 24, 2022 at 8:17 AM MDT | Updated: 2 hours ago

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PUEBLO, Colo. (KKTV) - Pueblo's \$1 Million Reading Challenge is back for its second year. Pueblo City-County Library District's (PCCLD) reading challenge offers Pueblo County kids, from birth to 17 years old, the chance to earn \$100 dollars while reading this summer.

To earn their \$100, participants must check out or download 10 items from PCCLD. To finish, readers must then submit one of the following: a short written review, a drawing, or video explaining what they thought about one of their 10 titles. You can do that by [clicking here](#).

A certificate of completion and voucher for the \$100 will be mailed directly to the participant's home and can be redeemed at any Bank of the San Juans locations prior to the expiration date.

"The Pueblo City-County Library is proud to help bring back this program for the summer of 2022 for the young people and families in our community. We learned from last year's successful project that it increases young people's confidence in reading, improves their financial literacy, and puts dollars to work quickly in our local economy," says PCCLD's Executive Director Jon Walker.

Pueblo Mayor Nick Gradisar added, "The Reading Pays program was such a success across the City of Pueblo last year and we are excited to support this effort again this summer. We know Reading Pays offers the opportunity for kids to fall in love with reading, practice accountability, be introduced to financial literacy and create healthy habits. These are all important for the youth in our city and we are happy to foster this opportunity again by financially supporting the program."

The challenge ends August 31.

The funding for this program was funded by the city and county of Pueblo through the American Rescue Plan Act to help the county rebound from the effects of COVID-19.

The library says more than 14,000 students throughout Pueblo County are pre-registered in this program. All of Pueblo County School District 70's more than 6,400 the elementary and middle school students are pre-registered as are more than 6,300 students in Pueblo School District 60.

Registration is now open, you can [sign up here](#).

Spots are available on a first-come, first-served basis and Reading Pays participants may only complete once.

For questions about the program, [click here](#) or call (719) 553-0211.

Participating Reading Pays schools:Pueblo School District 60

- Belmont Elementary School
- Bessemer Academy
- Bradford Elementary School
- Columbian Elementary School
- Corwin International Magnet School
- D60 Online
- Franklin School of Innovation
- Goodnight School
- Haaff Elementary School
- Heritage Elementary School
- Highland Park Elementary School
- Irving Elementary School
- Minnequa Elementary School
- Risley International Academy of Innovation
- Sunset Park Elementary School

Pueblo County School District 70

- Avondale Elementary School
- Beulah School of Natural Sciences
- Cedar Ridge Elementary School
- Craver Middle School
- Desert Sage Elementary School
- Liberty Point Elementary School
- Liberty Point International School
- North Mesa Elementary School
- Pleasant View Middle School
- Prairie Winds Elementary School
- Rye Elementary School
- Sierra Vista Elementary School
- Skyview Middle School
- South Mesa Elementary School
- Vineland Elementary School
- Vineland Middle School
- Villa Bella Expeditionary School

Pueblo's Reading Pays program returns, giving youths a chance to earn \$100 for reading



Justin Reutter The Pueblo Chieftain

Published 2:38 p.m. MT June 24, 2022

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Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library at 100 E Abriendo Ave. Chieftain Photo/Zachary Allen

Pueblo youths have a chance to earn \$100 through a Pueblo City-County Library District summer reading program.

The \$1 million Reading Pays program provided by the city and county through the American Rescue Plan Act is meant to encourage reading in all children up to 17 years old.

"The Pueblo City-County Library is proud to help bring back this program for the summer of 2022 for the young people and families in our community," said PCCLD Executive Director Jon Walker.

In 2021, more than 7,000 Pueblo County youngsters completed the summer reading challenge, Walker said.

"This represents nearly 20% of the eligible population of county residents ages 0-17. We conducted post-program surveys and focus groups, and some of what we learned from these is that the reading challenge helped young people improve their

reading skills and, also, boost financial literacy among the participants."

Last year, the program paid out \$712,300, Walker said.

To earn their \$100, participants must check out or download 10 items from PCCLD.

They then must submit one of the following: a short written review, a drawing, or a video explaining what they thought about one of the 10 titles.

Response submissions are accepted online at pueblolibrary.org/readingpays.

A certificate of completion and voucher for the \$100 will then be mailed directly to the participant's home.

The \$100 voucher is redeemable at any Bank of the San Juans location prior to the expiration date.

The program ends Aug. 31.

More than 14,000 students throughout Pueblo County are preregistered for the program. All of Pueblo County School District 70's more than 6,400 elementary and middle school students are preregistered, as are more than 6,300 students in Pueblo School District 60.

For those not registered through a participating school, registration is open online at pueblolibrary.org/readingpays. Spots are available on a first-come, first-served basis and Reading Pays participants may only complete it once.

"The Reading Pays program was such a success across the city of Pueblo last year and we are excited to support this effort again this summer," said Pueblo Mayor Nick Gradisar. "We know Reading Pays offers the opportunity for kids to fall in love with reading, practice accountability, be introduced to financial literacy and create healthy habits."

Community partners in the Reading Pays program include the city and county of Pueblo, the library district, Bank of the San Juans, and Executives Partnering to Invest in Children (EPIC) of Pueblo. In addition to earning the \$100, participants can take home and keep books donated by EPIC. The organization donated 9,000 books to the library district in support of Reading Pays.

"The bottom line is kids who read succeed," said Walker. "I have come to know this anecdotally from my 40-plus years in this profession and there are a number of studies demonstrating that literacy skills among young people is an important determinant of upward socioeconomic mobility later in life."

Questions, comments, or story tips? Contact Justin at Jreutterma@gannett.com. Follow him on Twitter @jayreutter1.