

PRESS REPORT

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Pueblo library summer reading program rewards kids

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USA TODAY NETWORK

More than 3,000 reading trackers had already been turned in to the Pueblo City-County Library District's summer reading program as of June 23, the library announced.

The program is open to Pueblo County youth ages 0 to 18. Participants can join by checking out five books and completing one of the listed activities. Reading trackers, or game boards, can be picked up and returned at any library location.

Up to two completed game boards can be turned in per day. Each submission earns a prize and a coupon to a local business. Twenty-five businesses have donated more than 22,000 coupons for free food or summer-

related activities, according to the announcement.

Each completed game board also serves as an entry for the weekly grand prize drawing. So far, winners have received a pool party package for 20 guests, courtesy of the Pueblo Parks and Recreation Department, and a \$50 gift card to Little Caesars.

This year's dinosaur-themed campaign offers weekly crafts and activities at each library location. The programs are age-appropriate and free.

"Summer Reading is so important for keeping kids engaged and helping prevent the summer slide. We love seeing the excitement when they turn in their game boards to win great prizes and earn entries into our grand prize drawings," Rachel Salazar, PCCLD Youth Services manager, said.

The Summer Reading program is designed to help

young readers build confidence and encourage a love of reading. It aims to build early literacy skills and keep school-age youth engaged and ready for the upcoming school year.

"Keep up the great work and continue to turn in those game boards and visit your library for engaging programs, free lunch and more," Salazar said.

For more information about the Summer Reading program, visit pueblolibrary.org/summerreading.

This story was created by Jessica Skropanic, jessica.skropanic@redding.com, with the assistance of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Journalists were involved in every step of the information gathering, review, editing and publishing process. Learn more at cm.usatoday.com/ethical-conduct.