

YOUR FIFTH 2024 SUMMER READING NEWSLETTER!

As of July 12, we are 66% to our 12-million-point goal, and we have over 18k participants. We've surpassed our TOTAL number of participants from 2023!

ADULT TITLES IN HIGH DEMAND

This year, adult titles have been in high demand, causing some locations to run out earlier than usual. Please send any surplus adult books, whether new or from the past two years, to Teresa at the Service Center. Even two or three books would be appreciated. If you have information on available titles but can't share books, please notify us so we can assist customers seeking prize pickups at nearby locations. Contact Teresa for assistance with extra YA titles or classic books.

BACKDATING READING

As guests will still be coming in to pick up Summer Reading prizes into August, you may need easy access to this information! Here are some quick instructions on how to backlog Summer Reading and enroll guests in the program AFTER July 31.

- To enroll a guest after Summer Reading has ended:
 - Log into the administrative side of Beanstack.
 - Search for a person.
 - Under challenges, click "Recently Ended Challenges"
 - Check "Enrolled?" under Summer Reading.
- To backdate reading:
 - Log into the administrative side of Beanstack.
 - Search for a person.
 - Add to log.
 - Change date in last field to July 31 (or any date in challenge scope).
 - Confirm under "Rewards" that prize shows up as earned.



All reading that was done between June 1 - July 31 counts for the program, even if they did not enroll during the challenge timeframe. You can batch log up to 10 hours at a time and do not need to use specific titles or authors read. We will continue distributing prizes until August 15. Thank you for helping us find ways to say "yes!" and make sure everyone receives their prizes. Participants can still sign up between July 31-August 15.



READ IT FORWARD

- Our community goal is 12 million points. If we reach that milestone, we will donate several thousand books to the Latino Community Development Agency in September. For more information, visit the [Read It Forward](#) page on the intranet. A representative from LCDA spoke to engagement supervisors via Zoom at our June meeting; minutes are [here](#).
- The Latino Community Development Agency (LCDA) improves the Latino community's quality of life through education, leadership, services, and advocacy. With 30 years of award-winning service, LCDA values diversity and collaboration. It offers bilingual childcare, health services, family support, treatment for mental health and substance abuse, and youth leadership programs to Oklahoma's Hispanic community.



COMMUNICATIONS

"End of Summer Reading" 24x36 and 11x17 posters have been distributed to your locations. Half-sheets are available to [download here](#). Please let COM know if you have not received yours.



SCOOTERS



In June, OES distributed coupons and stickers from Scooter's Coffee, offering half off any drink or kid's combo at their Oklahoma County locations. These items, though not part of Summer Reading, can be distributed at programs, as scavenger hunt prizes, or as other small rewards unrelated to our Summer Reading challenge prizes.

SUMMER READING/NEIGHBORHOOD ARTS RECAP (IN PHOTOS)



from Almonte Library



from Choctaw Library



from Harrah Senior Center



from Choctaw Library

[Summer Reading shirts and totes for staff are available through Bonfire!](#)



TEEN VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

For questions about Summer Reading teen volunteers, first check with your location's Summer Volunteer Supervisor, then contact Heidi Port in DVS.

Wrap Meeting and Set Up:

- Date: Thursday, August 1
- Time: 12:30 - 3:30 pm
- Location: DN
- Details: Teen Volunteer Supervisors bring their favorite wrap ingredients to share (savory or sweet). We'll eat from 12:30 - 1:30 pm and then meet to discuss feedback for next year.

Summer Volunteer Recognition Party:

- Date: Friday, August 2
- Details: Invites went out July 10 with RSVP options for volunteers and their guests (friends 11-18 years old). Parents and younger siblings can use the karaoke room, but activities, events, and food are for volunteers and their friends. Contact Heidi with any questions or concerns.

Volunteer Recognition Calendar FY26:

- Photo Sessions: July 17, 19, 24, 26
- We are getting ready to launch a Teen Volunteer calendar just like we did with the Therapy Dog calendar! Volunteers participating and their parents will receive a confirmation email. Contact Heidi with any questions.

TRAUMA-INFORMED TIPS FOR SUMMER SUPERS

Why? Being a teen today is REALLY hard and sometimes you just need a coach for encouragement and guidance! As part of summer volunteering, approaching teens with curiosity and authenticity will create a pathway to personal success and healthy workforce development. We can coach teens as they develop healthy life and work habits to help lower anxiety and increase confidence. Summer volunteering is also a great way to combat what the Surgeon General calls "Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation" which is vital to healthy teen development.

One of our goals for Summer Volunteers is to encourage teamwork with staff and fellow teens, building stronger and more supportive relationships. A coaching mindset will help us increase social and emotional learning with teen volunteers. Coaching implies that there is not one right way to approach a situation, and curiosity can help develop problem solving skills and self-motivation. Use what works for you, and your summer volunteers, but give these a try each week and see if you notice any differences. Here is your guide to all 8 of the questions to help guide you through your process!

Question 1 – Try The Kickstart Question: What’s on your mind?

- When teens arrive for their shift, ask “What’s on your mind?”, and then take the time to really listen.
- Ask for three words that describe how they’re feeling.
- Give a notecard, sheet of paper, or post-it note they can fill out and return to you
- Give them three post-it notes to list their three words and have them put them on the wall in the breakroom.

Question 2 – Ask “What’s on your mind” and then The AWE Question: And what else?

- The first thing they say may not be everything they’re concerned about. This is your opportunity to key into what might be weighing on them or concerning them.
- This question can be asked multiple times in different ways.
- Get curious, not furious! This approach works well when a situation has gone awry as well. Maybe there’s a situation at home or something that happened in the library during their shift that is too heavy for them to carry alone.

Question 3 – The Focus Question - What’s the Real Challenge Here for You?

- Help teens identify what is difficult for them.
- The challenge for them could be aiming for perfection in every area of their lives, including volunteering. By being curious about what might be a struggle, you can help teens discover coping strategies or see a different perspective.
- Sometimes the challenge might be something unexpected or easily fixed. Again, RESIST the temptation to suggest solutions. Ask them the next question, “What do you want?” and let them find solutions that will lead them to their desired results.

Question 4 – The Foundation Question - “What Do You Want?”

- Now that teens are used to sharing what’s on their mind each volunteer shift, take some time to ask more in-depth follow-up questions to determine what they would like to gain this summer, or ways they’d like to grow:
 - What do you feel like you’re getting out of volunteering?
 - Is volunteering what you thought it would be?
 - What’s your favorite part of volunteering?
 - What are you most anxious about this summer?
 - What else would you like to learn this summer?
- If you’re not getting verbal responses, silence is good! Don’t try to fill the space yourself. Leave openings for conversations.
- Try some fun paper with journaling prompts they can return to you. You can reply with supportive statements.
- Send an email survey with the same questions. Be sure to acknowledge their responses and feelings.



Question 5 – The Lazy Question – How can I help?

- Teens can identify what involvement they would appreciate from you.
- Teens can identify their expectations and make a clear and direct request.
- You can step back and let the teens learn and mature instead of “fixing” issues for them.
- Just because they ask doesn’t mean you can do everything requested of you. You have a range of responses:
 - “Yes” and help within YOUR boundaries!
 - “No, I can’t do that” which is sometime difficult and requires courage.
 - “I can’t do that... but I could do [insert your counter-offer]” is a great compromise if there’s something you can do!
 - “Let me think about that.”
 - “I’m not sure—I’ll need to check a few things out.”

Question 6 – The strategic question – If you are saying yes to this, what are you saying no to?

- Strategy is about knowing what to say “no” to. If possible, let volunteers have a choice, or at least be able to decide the order of tasks?
- If you’re giving the ability to make choices, be sure you’re okay with either option!



Question 7 – What was most useful for you?

- Try asking “What have you learned about yourself this summer?”
- “What worked for you?”
- “What did not work for you?”
- “What tools will you take with you in your school life? Work life? Home/personal life?”

Question 8 – Try more coaching.

- “How can I help and support you?”
- Letter of recommendation
- Reflection of your strengths
- Sounding board
- Future coaching
- “Would you like to continue volunteering? If so, what would you like to help with? Are there any new skills you’d like to learn?”



**THANK YOU ALL FOR MAKING THIS
YEAR'S SUMMER READING SO SPECIAL**