



Kids' Book Bank Read-a-Thon Tool Kit

Helpful tips and resources for running a successful Read-a-Thon!

**Thank you for organizing a read-a-thon to support the
Cleveland Kids' Book Bank!**

Our mission is to foster improved literacy and a love of reading by providing free books to children in need in the Greater Cleveland area. Your read-a-thon donations will help us make a difference in the lives of underserved kids in our area.

This Read-a-Thon Tool Kit includes the following items to make your event run smoothly and create as little work as possible for you, the organizer!

- How-to instructions
- Kids' Book Bank fact sheet
- Pledge form
- Reading log
- Flyer to promote the read-a-thon

Questions?

For more information or for additional resources, please contact Leslie FitzSimmons at the Kids' Book Bank at 216.417.1803 or leslief@kidsbookbank.org.

Thank you for your support!

To learn more about the Kids' Book Bank, visit www.kidsbookbank.org.

Read-a-Thon How-to

Running a Read-a-Thon is easy!

Read-a-thons are a win/win for kids! Participants improve their reading skills, and the Kids' Book Bank uses the pledges to provide free books to kids in need.

Read-a-thons can be large or small, depending on the group of kids you're working with. Entire schools, individual classrooms, scout groups, church groups, sports teams, and more can all organize and participate in a read-a-thon.

- First, pick a 10-14-day period for your read-a-thon.
- Promote the event through email, social media, posters, and flyers sent home with kids.
- One to two weeks before the read-a-thon, distribute pledge sheets and reading logs to participants (see attached).
- Kids commit to reading 20 minutes or more each day during the read-a-thon.
- Family, friends, and neighbors support the kids' reading by making a pledge. Pledges can be per hour read, or a flat dollar amount (ex. \$2 per hour or \$20 total regardless of reading time).
- Each participant is responsible for collecting his/her pledge money at the end of the read-a-thon. Checks should be made payable to Cleveland Kids' Book Bank and mailed to Cleveland Kids' Book Bank, Attn: Judy Payne, 3635 Perkins Ave., Cleveland, OH 44114.
- Make it fun from start to finish! Encourage kids to read by setting goals and giving prizes, creating book theme days (ex. dress like your favorite character), or host a PJ reading party!



Cleveland Kids' Book Bank Fact Sheet

- The mission of the Kids' Book Bank is to foster improved literacy and a love of reading by providing free books to children in need.
- Since opening in March 2016, the Cleveland Kids' Book Bank has distributed more than one million books to 95,000+ kids in Cuyahoga County.
- 4,000 people have volunteered with the Kids' Book Bank in just two years.
- The Kids' Book Bank partners with more than 900 organizations to distribute books to children in low-income families.
- Studies show that being read to as a child and having books in the home are the two most important indicators of future academic success.
- The number of books in the home correlates to future reading achievement.
- Two-thirds of low-income families do not own a single children's book.
- In 2016, only 24% of third graders in Cleveland public schools scored proficient on the Ohio Reading Test.
- 61% of Cleveland residents are functionally illiterate.
- Cleveland has the second-highest child poverty rate of major cities in the U.S.—illiteracy is a root cause of poverty.
- Only two-thirds of Cleveland students graduate high school.
- According to the American Educational Research Association, a student who can't read at grade level by third grade is four times more likely to drop out of high school than a child who reads proficiently.



Read-a-Thon Pledge Sheet

Student Name _____ Organization/School _____

Parent email (optional): _____

Thank you for supporting the Kids' Book Bank through this read-a-thon! Your pledge will help the Kids' Book Bank continue distributing 60,000+ books a month to Cleveland-area kids in need—many of whom don't have books of their own.

	Sponsor's Name	Email Address	Pledge per hour	Flat Pledge	Total Earned	Total Collected
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
Totals						

PLEDGES: Ask family, friends, and neighbors to support your read-a-thon with a pledge.

PAYMENT: After the read-a-thon, participants should collect pledge payments in cash or check. Checks should be made payable to the *Cleveland Kids' Book Bank* and mailed to Cleveland Kids' Book Bank, 3635 Perkins Ave., Cleveland, OH 44114. All donations are tax-deductible, welcome, and appreciated!



KIDS' BOOK BANK
www.kidsbookbank.org

Read-a-Thon Reading Log

Student Name _____ Organization/School _____

My daily reading goal is _____ minutes per day. My overall goal is _____ hours.

	Date	Book Title	Minutes Read	Parent/ Guardian Initials
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				

Total Reading Time (hours): _____ Parent Signature: _____

READING ...what counts?

1. Books, magazines, ebooks - they all count!
2. Being read to - it counts!
3. Reading aloud to others - your pet, your parents, your stuffed animals - it all counts!
4. If you read aloud to another participant, it counts for both of you!