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Orange County Kids Smash Summer Reading Challenge Goals

ORLANDO, FL – Now that summer vacation is over and kids have returned to school, Orange County Library System (OCLS) has great news about its first in-person Summer Reading Program (SRP) since 2019. For SRP 2022, OCLS set a goal to get children to read a combined total of 2 million minutes during the summer. Thanks to an enthusiastic response from the Orange County community, 2,514 kids completed the 600-minute reading challenge, with a total of 2,173,362 minutes read overall. This marks the second year in a row that the Summer Reading Challenge goal has been met and exceeded.

Prizes for the Summer Reading Challenge were sponsored by Window World of Central Florida, which generously donated \$50,000 so the library could give kids incentives to complete their summer reading. This contribution allowed for over 2,900 goodie bags of prizes to be distributed at the challenge's halfway point and 350 grand prizes to be given away through drawings at End of Summer Celebrations held at several library locations.

"Our Summer Reading Program's goal is to promote literacy and education by engaging kids in activities that encourage curiosity and make reading fun," said Steve Powell, Interim Director of Orange County Library System. "These numbers show that our efforts are paying off – the minimum kids had to read for the challenge was at least 300 minutes over the summer, and most of our participants read far more than that."

Orange County Library System is proud to support literacy and education by engaging kids and families with reading challenges and educational events all year long. OCLS Reading Challenges for all ages can be found year round at ocls.beanstack.org. Visit ocls.info to find a complete listing of upcoming events at all library locations.

Get a sneak peak and stay up to date on the 2023 Summer Reading Program by visiting ocls.info/srp.

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