Track your reading, play fun educational mini-games, and find missions full of activities. Discover HCLS eResources along the way. Earn points and unlock badges!

Earn ten points to receive a free book! Earn points by either logging your books online or in a paper reading log, and then visit any HCLS branch between August 2 – 31 to pick up your book. Limit one book per reader, while supplies last.

Summer Reading begins on June 1, with a new Mission beginning every Monday through August 23.

Earn 1 point for each Mission activity you complete or book/reading activity you log.

Substitute reading for any activity.

Imagine Your Own 20-minute Reading Activity by reading any way you like: Read or listen to an eBook; a book you can hold in your hand; a chapter; a comic or graphic novel; or read a poem.

Accomplish 3 Mission activities or reading activities to complete a Mission.

Activities may be adjusted as appropriate for each child. Or create your own activity.

When you reach a total of 10 points, you have officially completed Summer Reading and may visit any HCLS Branch to pick up your book prize. (While supplies last; limit 1 book per reader).

What happens after you earn 10 points? Keep on reading! Continue reading, logging books, and completing mission activities.
Track your progress either online in hcls.readsquared.com or here. Missions and activities may be completed in any order. Reading may be substituted for any activity.

June 1: mission 1

- Ages 11-17: Citizen Science
  Involve the whole family in citizen science! This site gets you started on a summer filled with engaging and accessible science projects. scistarter.org

- Ages 11-13: Rainbow Chalk Walk
  Grab some colorful sidewalk chalk and draw friendly rainbows all over your neighborhood to spread the love.

- Ages 14-17: Pride!
  Celebrate Pride Month! If possible, participate in a local event and take a glance at our selection of Rainbow Reads, available in branches.

June 7: mission 2

- Ages 11-17: Author Alert
  Celebrate acclaimed author, Nikki Giovanni’s birthday by reading her poetry. Check out her books from the library. https://nikki-giovanni.com/works/poetry/

- Ages 11-13: Kindness Rocks
  Create positive messages to share with friends and your community. All you need are a few smooth rocks, permanent markers or paints, and inspiration!

- Ages 14-17: Ride Research
  Will you be driving soon? Start researching car costs and models using Consumer Reports. You can get an idea of car features and prices before deciding on a future ride. www.consumerreports.org/cro/index.htm

June 14: mission 3

- Ages 11-17: Juneteenth
  Juneteenth (short for June Nineteenth) marks the annual celebration of the end of slavery in the United States. Explore Juneteenth with the library’s titles about the subject and its impact on our nation.

- Ages 11-13: Paper Planes
  Learn some new paper plane folding designs and try them outside. Which plane flies the furthest? Highest? Which design crashes?

- Ages 14-17: Test Prep Success
  Are you taking the SAT or ACT next year? Get ready with Peterson’s Test & Career Prep, a helpful library eResource. hclibrary.org/new-a-main/a-student-middle-high-school/

June 21: mission 4

- Ages 11-17: Write Now!
  Practice your writing skills by writing a review of anything. Yesterday's dinner, today's favorite TV show, favorite tech gadgets, or whatever catches your interest.

- Ages 11-13: Science Fans Unite
  For fans of Earth and space sciences to those seeking more about engineering and technology, ScienceFlix helps you explore all things science.

- Ages 14-17: Road Ready?
  Map the perfect weekend road trip. Where would you go and what would you bring? Share your ideas with family and friends.
June 28: mission 5

- **Ages 11-17: Two for One**
  Get your reading and your fitness on at the same time. Plug in to one of the library’s digital audiobooks and take a walk in the sunshine.

- **Ages 11-13: Moving Up to Middle School**
  As you get ready for middle school, take a look at how the library can help you succeed. View the video on HCLS’ YouTube channel (youtube.com/user/howardcountylibrary) for library eResources middle schoolers can count on.

- **Ages 14-17: Sunset Painting**
  Grab your paints and paper and head outdoors. Use the sunset as inspiration. Display your finished piece in your room or gift it to a friend.

July 5: mission 6

- **Ages 11-17: Bundle Bags**
  Not sure what to read next? Take the guesswork out of it with Bundle Bags. Pick a category and our librarians will select six titles for you. hclibrary.org/books-movies-music/bundle-bag/

- **Ages 11-13: Teens Talk & Teach**
  Want to learn more about math or other cool topics taught by teens? Check out the Library’s on-demand playlist, TAB: Teens Talk and Teach, a series of teen classes taught exclusively by teens. youtube.com/user/howardcountylibrary

- **Ages 14-17: Making History**
  For those seeking a little weirdness with their history facts, take a look at WeirdHistory.com with unusual articles and stories that are out of the ordinary.

July 12: mission 7

- **Ages 11-17: Banish Brain Fog**
  Avoid summer brain fog by checking out Brain HQ. Think of it as a personal gym, where you exercise and improve your memory, attention, brain speed, people skills, intelligence, and navigation instead of your abs and quads.

- **Ages 11-13: Language Learning**
  Have you always wanted to learn a new language? Check out Mango, an eResource for language learners. Whether its Arabic, French, Japanese, Spanish, or another of the 70+ languages available, Mango will have you speaking fluently in no time. learn.mangolanguages.com/pathway

- **Ages 14-17: Upcycled Clothing**
  Does your wardrobe need an update? Consider upcycling some of your older clothes in cool new ways. Check out Pinterest for ideas.

July 19: mission 8

- **Ages 11-17: Find Your Next Read!**
  Are you looking for a few good books to read? Check out NextReads. You’ll get reading lists right to your email inbox along with new gems, bestsellers, and related titles. hclibrary.org/research/nextreads/

- **Ages 11-13: Get Gardening**
  Did you know gardening is a great way to exercise your body and brain? With benefits such as improved memory and reduced stress, along with all those fruits, vegetables, and herbs. Grab a friend and get your garden tools ready.

- **Ages 14-17: Comic-Con DIY**
  In honor of Comic-Con, come up with your own DIY cosplay. Snap a pic and post to your social media.

July 26: mission 9

- **Ages 11-17: Game Changer**

- **Ages 11-13: Graphic Novel Bonanza**
  Do you love graphic novels? Check out Teen Book Cloud, for a variety of graphic reads. Your next graphic novel is just clicks away via TeenBookCloud at hclibrary.org

- **Ages 14-17: Make a Difference!**
  We can all make a difference in our communities. Help an elderly neighbor with yard work. Pick up trash in your neighborhood. Donate canned goods to your area food bank. Doing good feels good.
August 2: mission 10

- Ages 11-17: Listen Locally
  Listen to teens talk books and other hot topics. Check out the latest HoCoCast! hclibrary.org/community-education/hococast/

- Ages 11-13: Healthy Snacking
  Searching for a healthy snack that's creative, too? Get ideas from sites such as Kidspot Kitchen for easy-to-make, healthy treats. www.kidspot.com.au/kitchen/

- Ages 14-17: Career Curiosities?
  Interested in exploring different career fields but don’t know where to start? Go to Learning Express Library’s career preparation menu of possible careers. www.learningexpresshub.com/ProductEngine/LELIndex.html#/center/learningexpresslibrary/career-center/home/learn-more-about-a-career

August 9: mission 11

- Ages 11-17: Star Gazing
  Gaze up at a clear night sky. Can you identify any planets or constellations? How about alien life?

- Ages 11-13: Vocal Boost
  Are you the next American Idol? Improve your vocal techniques with free lessons from the eResource Artist Works and start serenading! hclibrary.org/new-a-main/a-student-middle-high-school/

- Ages 14-17: Car Ride Companions
  Long car ride planned? Audiobooks make great travel companions. Get yours today! Check out hclibrary.org

August 16: mission 12

- Ages 11-17: Minute to Win It
  Did you read a good book this summer? Challenge yourself to write a one-minute synopsis of your book.

- Ages 11-13: Collage It
  Grab some old magazines and cut out words, phrases and pictures that help you visualize what you want for the upcoming school year. Give yourself some new goals and decorate the collage with your favorite things.

- Ages 14-17: Closet Clean Out
  As back-to-school time approaches, now is the time to organize your closet and revamp your style. Need some cleaning background music? Check out the playlists on Freegal. hclibrary.freegalmusic.com/home

August 23: mission 13

- Ages 11-17: Goal Getter
  With back-to-school just around the corner, now is an ideal time to think about your goals for the new school year. Create a vision board using magazines and inspirational quotes. Review your board regularly to keep yourself on track and accountable.

- Ages 11-13: Get Organized
  Go back to school prepared by taking the time to create a bullet journal. Try the craze that will let you express yourself AND get organized.

- Ages 14-17: Future Self
  Write a letter to your future self. What are your goals and wishes for this school year? Tuck it away and read it next year in June 2022.