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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Race to 1.5 Million Is On: Help Yakima Valley Libraries Reach the Goal Before Time Runs Out

YAKIMA, WA — The finish line is in sight, and Yakima Valley Libraries is asking the community to help make Summer Reading Challenge history.

With just one week remaining, readers have logged more than 1.27 million minutes, leaving only 225,000 minutes to reach the community goal of 1.5 million minutes before the challenge ends on Friday, July 31.

Whether you've been reading all summer or have a stack of minutes waiting to be logged, now is the time. Every minute logged between now and July 31 brings our community one step closer to the finish line.

"This has never just been about books," said Sully Gama, Community Engagement & Impact Manager for Yakima Valley Libraries. "It's about families reading together, kids discovering a love of books, teens finding stories they connect with, and adults making time to read. We are so close to reaching our goal, and we'd love to see the community rally together for one final push."

Finish the Challenge. Win a Prize.

Participants who log 600 minutes and complete the Summer Reading Challenge by July 31 will automatically be entered into a special grand prize drawing.

One winner will be selected from each age group to receive a gift card:

- Ages 0–5
- Ages 6–12

- Ages 13–17
- Adults (18+)

If you're close to 600 minutes, this is your chance to finish strongly.

Celebrate With Us at the Maker Fair!

The celebration doesn't end when the reading challenge does.

Join Yakima Valley Libraries for the Summer Reading Challenge End Celebration on Thursday, July 31, beginning at 2:00 p.m. at Yakima Central Library.

The library will transform into a hands-on Maker Fair, featuring creative stations filled with favorite crafts from throughout the past year, brand-new projects, and exciting STEAM activities. There will be a craft for all ages! Families are encouraged to drop in, create together, and celebrate an incredible summer of reading and discovery.

There's Still Time!

Before July 31:

- Log every reading minute in Beanstack.
- Reach 600 minutes to earn an entry into the grand prize drawing.
- Help Yakima Valley Libraries reach 1.5 million community reading minutes.
- Celebrate at the Summer Reading Challenge End Celebration and Maker Fair beginning at 2:00 p.m. on July 31 at Yakima Central Library.

The countdown is on, and every page, every chapter, and every minute can make the difference.

Let's finish strong and show what our community can accomplish together.