



## **What is the Fairfield Summer Challenge?**

Find your voice at the library this summer! What makes your voice special? How do you share your story? Is it through the books you love? The stories, art or STEM experiments you create? Sports or games you play? This summer will be full of learning new skills and showing off who you are! Read, write book reviews, attend events, and complete bonus activities to earn points and reach your goal this year! Readers can reach their personal goal of 1,000 points when they register for the following age-specific programs on our Beanstack site:

- \* *Children's Summer Challenge (Babies – entering grade 5)*
- \* *Teen Summer Challenge (entering grades 6–12)*
- \* *Adult Summer Challenge (Ages 18+)*

## **What is Beanstack?**

Beanstack is an online program that makes keeping track of individual and family reading plus fun activities super easy! Find the site here: <http://fairfieldpubliclibrary.beanstack.org>.

Beanstack allows patrons to:

- \* Keep track of all family members' reading logs, progress, and rewards on one account.
- \* Complete fun bonus activities to earn extra points.

## **How old do you have to be to open your own Beanstack account?**

Readers joining the Teen Challenge and above can open their own account (entering grade 6 and above). Readers joining the Children's Challenge should open an account with an Adult as their Account Creator.



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **My child is still learning to read, why should we join the summer challenge?**

Reading to your child counts not only for points in the Summer Challenge for adult AND child, but it forms a bond with your child and helps build important neural pathways in their brain.

### **We read but why should we log our reading minutes?**

Because games are fun! When a whole family participates in our Challenges, school age children are more likely to stay engaged and their brains active until they return to school. There are many ways for all different kinds of children to get thinking: just look at our Activity Badges and Events for interactive fun. Ask a librarian for a “just right” book for your child; readers can also friend and compete with each other on Beanstack for an extra incentive!

### **I am a teen who likes to do my own thing, why would I do this challenge?**

Our Teen Challenge focuses on thinking critically about the books you are reading, as well as joining in fun activities at the library. Come to events at the library for more raffle tickets toward our genre gift bags!

### **I am an adult! Why would I need to join this challenge?**

Our Adult Challenge focuses on reading new authors, attending library events and thinking critically about what you are reading. As you read, write book reviews, and complete activities, you get more chances to win great prizes and join in the community reading spirit!



### **How do I reach my 1,000 points goal?**

You earn 1 point for each minute of reading. You earn 5 points for each book review. You also earn bonus points for different activities in each Challenge (see Activity Badges). Do not forget our Emoji Book Title challenge and Library Scavenger Hunt for all ages. Readers can completely customize their Challenge with a combination of reading, reviews, and activities!

### **How do we know how many minutes the town has read?**

We will be posting progress updates toward our Community Goal on social media, and you can get live updates on the top of your Beanstack account homepage.

### **Can I log reading and activities on my mobile device?**

Yes! Search for the [Beanstack Tracker App](#) on the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play App Store](#) for an easy way to see your Streaks, Achievements, log reading via ISBN and more!

### **Can I read with family and friends?**

Yes! Challenge your friends and see who can top your group's Leaderboard! This is closed group can view each other's reading logs, challenge histories, and earned badges, as well as compete on their leaderboards. Visit the "Friends" tab in your Beanstack account to generate a code to share with friends, or add their code to your account.

You can also log reading minutes for multiple family members at the same time by selecting "All Readers" in the drop down menu while logging.



### **What are the bonus activities I can complete to earn extra points?**

All bonus activities are visible on the Activity Badges tab through your Summer Challenge. **For all ages, the Storywalk, Guess the Emoji Book Title Challenges, Mini Canvas Art Gallery, Library Scavenger Hunt and Vote for a Mascot.**

**For children,** badges are available weekly with our in-house library activities, events, and more bonus activities.

**For teens,** challenge yourself to read different genres, secret event codes and more.

**For adults,** challenge yourself to read different genres, borrow a wrapped book, and more!

### **What are Tickets and how do I spend them?**

You earn Tickets for each badge that is unlocked (see the Ticket icon on the badges where you earn Tickets). You can spend your tickets by visiting Ticket Drawings tab. Each badge earns 1 Ticket except where noted.

### **What are the Grand Prize Ticket Drawings?**

The following is a list of all the Grand Prize Ticket Drawings for all ages. The Challenges end on August 12, and the winners notified on August 14.

\* Children's Summer Challenge (Babies – entering grade 5)

- Dog Man Party
- Harry Potter Party
- Maker Space Party
- Mystery Night Party
- Paint-along party
- Slime Party
- Storytime party
- Preschool Book and STEM Game Bundle
- Various Book Bundles (K-5)

\* Teen Summer Challenge (entering grades 6–12)

- Fantasy Prize Bag
- Mystery Prize Bag
- Science Fiction Prize Bag

\* Adult Summer Challenge (Ages 18+)

- Book Bundle
- Entertainment Bundle
- S'mores Party Kit with tabletop bonfire pit
- Craft Party at the library

**Can I log reading on my smart speaker?**



Yes, if you have an Alexa smart speaker, you can link your Beanstack account to log minutes.

\*If your family has multiple Alexa devices at home, you can use the same Beanstack account across devices or connect each device to a different account. The Beanstack Tracker for

Alexa only logs reading time or titles.

1. Enable the skill by either saying “Alexa, enable Beanstack Tracker” or searching for “Beanstack tracker” in the Alexa Skill Store.
2. If you enable the skill by voice, access the skill from your Amazon Alexa App and Choose to Link Your Account.
3. Search for “Fairfield Public Library” when prompted.
4. Click “Log In To Your Account.”
5. When you receive the message “Beanstack Tracker has been successfully linked” you may close the app or website.
6. Using Alexa, Say “Alexa, open Beanstack Tracker” and follow the prompts to log



minutes for Summer Reading! Because Beanstack allows families to track multiple readers in a single account, your whole family can use Alexa to log their minutes.

### **Do audiobooks count toward my reading minutes?**

Yes! Read anything you can get your hands on! Any type of reading—audio, digital, print, or periodicals—counts toward your goal. Just supply the title and amount of time you read. If you just read the paper this morning, for example, you would type “New York Times” in the title field and enter your approximate time spent reading.

### **If my family is away for the summer, can we still participate?**

Yes! Many of our challenges have digital and at-home activities. You can log your reading minutes and activities online, and collect prizes upon your return (while supplies last).

### **Can I have a printout of my reading log?**

Yes! Visit Reading Log in the Toolbar, and select the Print button (will not print book covers).

### **Can I participate without an e-mail address?**

Beanstack is an optional library service that requires you provide an e-mail address and phone number. You can use the library computers to update your Beanstack account, but you must have an e-mail address to participate. Please ask a librarian at any public service desk to help you open up a free email address.



### **Where did my book review go?**

If you no longer see a review on your account, library staff has rejected your review. Book reviews must be at least 75 characters and be a thoughtful review of the material. Library staff may delete your points and review if they have decided to reject your review.

### **Is my personal information secure?**

Beanstack follows generally accepted industry security standards to safeguard and help prevent unauthorized access, maintain data security and correctly use your personally identifiable information. Please visit the Privacy Policy link of the Beanstack site for more information.