Reading Action Program

Your club has two more months to earn its Reading Action Program banner patch. At the present time only 13 of the 42 clubs in District 14-N have reported their activity pertaining to this worthwhile program. This is probably one of the easier activities to complete. I have sent your club a list of possible activities which you may do in order to qualify for the patch. I have attached it here along with the reporting procedure for your club secretary.

I know that some of your clubs will be meeting less and less as the summer approaches, but there is still time to complete your program. Some of the clubs have been doing what might be considered literacy programs in the past, but they were reported as something else. Please review your reports and make any needed changes.

As a former educator, I feel very strongly about this program. As I stated during my visitation to your club, illiteracy is a worldwide problem. Even in the United States, a high percentage of children start school without the preparation to learn. Reading is the key. Please do your part as a Lions Club and SERVE these children in some way which will make a difference in their lives and in the life of your community.

A few ideas which your club may do are:

- Donate books to your local Head Start Program.
- Donate books to your local schools or libraries.
- Read to children in an after school program.
- Pass out books at the local community store as part of another project.
- There are other ideas on the second page.

It is my fervent hope that we could get ALL of the clubs in District 14-N to participate in some way to this program. With your help thousands of children in the five county area will benefit from your hard work and dedication to the Reading Action Program.

Thank you for your service to your community.

DG Tom

Photo by Dan Morris

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Project Ideas

- Organize a virtual book drive to support a reading program in your community

- Read to children at a local library or after school program

- Host a book fair and invite an author or illustrator

- Hold a monthly reading challenge for children at your library (encouraging them to read a designated number of minutes every month to win a prize)

- Work with a deaf education teacher to organize a book reading group for children or adults who are deaf

- Volunteer at an after school program to tutor a child in reading

- Donate computers or other technology for learning to a local school, community center or library

- Work with your local school or library to increase access to information in braille

- Supply new parents with books for young children and include facts about the importance of early reading

- Collect new books for a children's hospital

- Sponsor a community spelling contest

- Purchase a children's magazine subscription for a local school or library

- Distribute large print and audio books to local senior centers

- Provide free books for children at a vision or hearing screening or other service activity for children

- Help people who are blind or visually impaired enroll in free, distance learning courses from The Hadley School for The Blind

- Provide assistive devices to children or adults who have low vision

- Sponsor a creative writing workshop and encourage the children to write a story about their favorite toy, food or an action hero and then have them read it

- Read a book aloud to a small group of children and encourage each child to paint a picture of the story

- Serve as a volunteer reader at a senior center

- Host a board game evening for adults

- Organize a book exchange

- Teach an internet class at a local library - show others how to use the internet for greater access to information

- Organize a community event in connection with the International Literacy Day, held during the month of September, to raise awareness about the importance of reading

- Work with a local school to provide backpacks filled with books and school supplies to children in need

- Host a computer literacy course for adults