



Reading Challenge FAQ

What is the reading challenge?

The [TSLAC Texas America250 Reading Challenge](#) is part of the national America250 America Gives initiative. The [Texas Center for the Book](#), headquartered at the [Texas State Library and Archives Commission](#) (TSLAC), encourages Texans to join us in reinvigorating a national year-round culture of service in the United States through 2026 and beyond.

When does the reading challenge start?

January 1, 2026. It runs through December 31, 2026. Readers may participate at any time throughout 2026.

What ages may participate?

Any age. We invite Texans of all ages to log 2,500 minutes (41.6 hours) of reading, state parks visits, and/or service activity in 2026, in honor of our nation's 250th anniversary. (If you have a young child, they can participate and count time when a family member is reading to them, or when they attend storytime at the library; see other qualifying activities below.)

What activities count toward the total?

Participants can log their time:

- **Reading books and/or listening to audiobooks.** We especially encourage reading about Texas and American history, as well as Texas and American nature, wildlife, and space exploration topics.
- **Attending library storytimes or other library events.**
- **Volunteering** in their local communities.
- **Visiting a Texas State Park** ([Texas Parks and Wildlife](#) is a Texas America250 partner).

[Texas State Parks](#) – Find a park and plan your visit! Visit the website to make a park reservation, browse campsites and lodging, buy park passes, access maps and rules, learn about upcoming activities, download the State Park Mobile App, and much more.

What activities count toward the total? (cont.)

America Gives – Whether pitching in to support our veterans and military families, or restoring nature trails, or mentoring youth, or picking up litter, or anything in between—there’s a way for everyone to give back. Explore volunteer opportunities near you and find the right fit for you to participate as we get ready for America’s 250th anniversary.

How do participants track their time?

You are welcome to use our “[Mosey Along the Reading Trail](#)” [Reading Log Map](#), or you can track their hours in whatever way works best—you’re welcome to make your own reading log, use an app to track your time, or use any method that is easy for you!

Do the tracking sheets or other reading logs need to be sent to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission?

No, you do not need to submit anything to TSLAC. The Texas America250 Reading Challenge is self-reported. You can let your school or public librarian know when you have completed the challenge, and they can print out a certificate for you.

What do I receive for completing the challenge?

Every participant who completes the challenge and reports completion to their public or school librarian can receive a certificate with Governor Greg Abbott’s signature. We’re proud of you for participating in our challenge!

I’m a librarian, how do I register to log in and print the completion certificates?

Directions for accessing completion certifications can be found on our website www.tsl.texas.gov/america250/certificate. TSLAC will also send out a short (optional) survey for participating libraries at the end of 2026.

What other ways can I participate?

We encourage you to post photos of yourself and your friends and family members working on the reading challenge, whether you’re reading, volunteering, or spending time at a state park. Please tag us [@tslac](#) on social media, and use the hashtag [#TexasAmerica250](#). Thank you for celebrating Texas America250 with us!