THE NEW Nationwide Braille Readers Are Leaders (BRAL) Contest IS HERE!

For the past four years the NFB of Illinois (NFBI) has coordinated and administered an annual BRAL contest for kids in the Midwest. Starting originally with only the state of Illinois, the NFBI expanded the contest over the years, and in 2016-17 it included all eight states bordering the Great Lakes.

Now the NFB of Illinois, in partnership with NAPUB (the National Association to Promote the Use of Braille) is pleased to extend the 2017-18 BRAL contest to any NFB affiliate that wishes to participate.

If your affiliate submits $100 to the NFBI, an unlimited number of children in your state can enter the contest. The kids can start reading on December 15, so that amount should be received by the NFBI before that date. Contact Patti Chang at [pattischang@gmail.com](mailto:pattischang@gmail.com) for transaction details.

The NFB of Illinois will take care of the administrative details for the contest, including providing and mailing out all prizes. Each participating affiliate, however, will be responsible for publicizing the contest within its own state.

Here is a thumbnail sketch of the contest:

* For each student who enters, a certifying official (parent, teacher, etc.) must fill out and submit a registration form. Registration forms can be submitted as early as November 15 2017 and as late as February 1 2018.
* Kids enter in one of five grade categories: K-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, & 9-12.
* Participants record Braille pages read in the weeks between December 15 2017 and February 1 2018 on a reading log.
* The certifying official must submit the completed reading log by February 10 2018.
* Prizes in each grade category are: first, $25; second, $15; third, $10.
* Every contestant, whether a winner or not, will receive a “goodie bag” containing Braille-related items at the end of the contest.

In addition to awards in the five grade categories, the Kelly Doty Award is given to a student who has met unusual challenges in order to learn and read Braille. Such challenges include, but are not limited to, having other disabilities in addition to blindness or being an English language learner.

The complete contest rules, registration form, and the reading log form will be available by November 8 on the website, <http://www.nfbofillinois.org>.

If you want a preliminary copy of the complete contest rules, contact Robert Gardner at [rgardner4@gmail.com](mailto:rgardner4@gmail.com).

Both the registration form and the reading log form will be submitted by each certifying official as an attachment to an email to Deborah Stein, NFB of Illinois, who will act as the contest administrator.

A flyer will soon be available to the participating states which can be used to publicize the contest.

We hope you will join us as we continue to promote Braille to the blind youth of our nation, a cornerstone mission of the National Federation of the Blind.

If you have questions contact:

Robert Gardner

Chair, Braille Literacy Committee

NFB of Illinois

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