

Reading to Kids Virtual Bingo and Auction Donation Talking Points

The next *Reading to Kids* Virtual Legendary Bingo will be **October 2nd**, and we need your help!

Prizes and auction items for our Bingo events are important to the success of each event, and **getting items donated is an easy way to show your support.**

There are a few ways to find products and services, but our favorite is asking your friends and family to donate. Reach out to anyone who may be able to donate gift certificates to local shops and restaurants, or perhaps have a service package to offer. It is even better if you are able to build a theme package or basket (see below for ideas).

Be sure to explain to your potential donors how amazing *Reading to Kids* is for the communities of Los Angeles. The organization was founded in 1999, and as of Sept. 2020, **23,166 volunteers** have participated at least once at our monthly reading clubs, reading aloud in small groups to a total attendance of **179,290 children**. In addition to giving a new book to every child who attends, we have given more than **51,800** books to parents and teachers and donated **32,813** hardcover read-aloud books to our partner schools' libraries.

Please share your experiences volunteering to really let potential donors know how important the organization is to you and everyone in the community!

Remember:

- Contact people closest to you first, then visit your local shops and restaurants
- Tell the story of *Reading to Kids* (21 plus years of continuous service to the community, more than 32,800 hardcover books donated to local schools, provides books for the children to take home, etc.)
- Share your personal story with *Reading to Kids*

You can further explain that since May we have been holding our monthly reading clubs via Zoom, making us perhaps the only extra-curricular activity available to many of the kids and families we serve!

Because virtual bingo is, well, *virtual*, some of the traditional prize ideas below are not good fits for this bingo event and are best provided as gift cards or email gift cards. ☺

Our donation form for donors to download and fill out is at readingtokids.org/News/Donation-Form.pdf

Any type of donation is appreciated and it can be fun to build a basket yourself!

Here are some ideas for Bingo prizes and Silent Auction items:

- Movie Night basket: DVDs or movie tickets, candy, microwave popcorn, bottles of soda or wine
- Gift certificates to local eateries
- Tickets to a show or play at a performing arts center
- Services at a beauty salon or spa
- A weekend retreat at a vacation home
- Tickets to a local baseball game, ball cap, and t-shirt
- Family game night basket: board games, takeout pizza gift certificate

Be sincere and don't worry if you get turned down occasionally. Your efforts are appreciated, and we look forward to seeing you at all events this year!