



BREVARD County
Library Services

Public Information Release

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Palm Bay Student Wins Wrestlemania Reading Challenge

PALM BAY, Florida— Chris Bajana of Palm Bay, a fifth-grade student at Discovery Elementary School, has been selected as a regional winner in the Young Adult Library Services Association's WrestleMania Reading Challenge, winning tickets to Wrestlemania 26 in Phoenix and a \$2,000 award for the DeGroot Library.

In a program sponsored by World Wrestling Entertainment and the Young Adult Library Association, children were challenged to read 10 items in their free time between October and January, and design a bookmark on the importance of reading. Teens competed to earn prizes, including a trip to WrestleMania and money for their libraries.

Seven regional winners in three grade categories each won a trip to Phoenix, with winners in grades 5 through 12 competing in the WrestleMania Reading Challenge National Finals in March to win ringside tickets.

Parents and caregivers of teens are encouraged to make time for their teens to read at home. Youth Services Librarian Jennifer Hopwood offers these ideas:

- Visit the local public or school library with your teen to attend an event or to check out books, graphic novels, audiobooks and other library materials.
- Set aside time each night for the family to read.
- Give books, audiobooks or magazine subscriptions to your teen as a gift or reward.
- Share your favorite book with your teen.
- Surf the Internet with your teen to learn about new books or authors. A good place to start is www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists.
- Join a book discussion group at the school or public library.

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