

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) For Read for Books 2025

1. What is Read for Books?

Read for Books is NLB's signature book donation drive which aims to encourage reading and to share the joy of reading with the less privileged.

From 1 to 31 Jul 2025, for every 10 people who read for 15 minutes, one book or equivalent will be donated to selected beneficiaries, up to the total number of books raised from donors. Our selected beneficiaries for Read for Books 2025 are Calvary Community Care, kidsREAD, MINDS, SHINE Children & Youth Services.

This year, Read for Books is supported by Bubbly Books, Focus Publishing, Mitsubishi RTM, POPULAR, Read With You, Scholastic Asia, Singapore Book Publishers Association.

Read for Books is an initiative under the National Reading Movement (NRM). NRM was launched on 3 Jun 2016 by the National Library Board to encourage Singapore residents to Read More, Read Widely, and Read Together. The movement aims to encourage people to "Read More" by getting them to set aside some time to read regularly, "Read Widely" by going beyond the usual genres and read in mother tongue languages, and to "Read Together" with family and friends.

2. When does Read for Books take place?

Read for Books takes place from 1 to 31 Jul 2025.

3. Who are the beneficiaries of Read for Books 2025?

We have four beneficiaries for Read for Books 2025 – Calvary Community Care, kidsREAD, MINDS, SHINE Children & Youth Services.

About the Beneficiaries:

Calvary Community Care (C3) is a registered charity and a member of the National Council of Social Service (NCSS). As a multi-service social service agency, C3 serves children, youth, adults, and seniors through a range of holistic programmes that promote literacy, emotional well-being, and social connection.

For children, C3 offers GROW, iREAD, and StoryLAB - targeted literacy interventions supporting readers at various levels. Club TREASURE, an after-school programme for children from low-income families in Chai Chee, provides structured learning and holistic development.

C3 engages youth-at-risk through its community-based youth centres (located in Marsiling and Tai Seng) and partnering MOE schools across the island. Through the drop-in and mentoring programmes, youths find belonging, develop resilience and learn practical life skills.

C3 also offers quality and affordable counselling services for youths and young adults aged 12–40.

For seniors in the Potong Pasir vicinity, C3 provides active aging activities to promote physical and social well-being and befriending services to combat social isolation. In partnership with NLB and other community partners, C3 delivers inclusive, impactful services across generations.

kidsREAD is a nationwide reading initiative by NLB in partnership with People's Association, self-help groups, MOE schools and preschools and social service groups to promote the love of reading and cultivate good reading habits among young Singaporeans, specifically children aged 4-8 years old from the less privileged families.

MINDS has been caring for Persons with Intellectual Disability (PWIDs) and their families since 1962. Grounded in the belief that all PWIDs have innate abilities and talents, MINDS is committed to empowering them and enhancing their quality of life, while advocating for greater inclusivity for PWIDs.

Today, MINDS is one of the largest charities in Singapore, serving an excess of 9,000 PWIDs and caregivers. With the key focus to expand community-based services, improving the employability of PWIDs, strengthening education, and engendering inclusive community living, MINDS offer a holistic range of services and programmes to serve PWIDs across their lifespan. These include schools, hubs (Regional Hubs, Community Hubs, Satellite Hubs), home-based care service and community-based services to cater to the physical, psychological, environmental, and social needs of PWIDs and their families.

For more information, visit www.minds.org.sg.

SHINE Children & Youth Services serves children and youths aged 5 - 25 through school, centre and community-based programmes grounded in research, theories, and practice wisdom to enable them to maximise their potential.

We support the children and youths in:

- Overcoming social difficulties through character building & development
- Optimizing education opportunities & encouraging school completion
- Overcoming learning difficulties
- Reducing juvenile delinquency
- Overcoming mental health challenges

4. Are there any requirements to participate in Read for Books?

Anyone can participate – the only requirement is to be able to read for 15 minutes. While we also recommend participants to become library members to enjoy the wide variety of library materials available, this is not compulsory. You do not need to be a library member, nor a Singaporean, or living in Singapore to participate. This is in line with our new aim of expanding Read for Books internationally. For more information on the type of reading materials you can read, please refer to point 7.

5. How can you participate in Read for Books?

5.1 - Organise a group Read Together session

Step 1: Register your interest by submitting the registration forms via the link at <https://go.gov.sg/rfb25-organisations>. Visit <https://go.gov.sg/rfb25-diyslides> to download the Read for Books instructional slides to get started.

Step 2: Gather your peers to read together for 15 minutes (online or at a physical space) from 1 to 31 Jul 2025.

Step 3: Take 1 to 2 photos or screenshots of the reading activity.

Step 4: Upon completion of the activity, please submit your photo(s) and the number of participants at <https://go.gov.sg/rfb25-submit>. The form will be activated on 1 Jul 2025.

NOTE: Please note that all submissions must be completed by 31 Jul 2025 (Thursday), 11.59pm.

5.2 - Read On Your Own

Step 1: You can also participate as an individual and carry out the reading activity at your own time. You can register your interest and receive updates by filling in the form at <https://go.gov.sg/rfb25-individuals>.

Step 2: Upon completion of the reading activity, please submit your photo(s) at <https://go.gov.sg/rfb25-submit>. The form will be activated on 1 Jul 2025.

Note 1: Please note that all submissions must be sent by 31 July 2025 (Thursday), 11.59pm.

Note 2: Donations are accumulative: every 10 individuals reading for 15 minutes = 1 book or equivalent donated; same 10 individuals reading for 30 minutes = 2 books or equivalent donated, and so forth.

6. Will reading materials be provided for participants?

The team has curated a set of book recommendations from NLB's collections, for children, adults and seniors respectively, at <https://go.gov.sg/rfb25-bookrec>.

Recommended short reads will be shared on screen by the host during the Zoom and onsite Read Together sessions run by NLB. However, participants are welcome to use their own reading materials, borrow library materials or even read articles online for their 15-minute activity.

7. What kinds of reading materials are allowed?

Any reading material is allowed and in any language (e.g. collection of articles, comics, newspapers, and even audiobooks)! You can also download eBooks using the NLB mobile app.

For more ideas, do check out book recommendations from our librarians at <https://go.gov.sg/rfb25-bookrec>.

8. Can participants participate in more than one reading session?

Yes, there are no limits to the number of reading sessions you are allowed to participate in. All reading hours submitted within July 2025 will be counted towards Read for Books. Multiple submissions are allowed.

9. Is there a registration fee involved in participating in Read for Books 2025?

No registration fee is involved.

10. How can participants register their interest to participate in Read for Books?

Participants can register their interest via the following registration forms:

- Individuals: <https://go.gov.sg/rfb25-individuals>
- Schools: <https://go.gov.sg/rfb25-schools>
- Preschools: <https://go.gov.sg/rfb25-preschools>
- Organisations: <https://go.gov.sg/rfb25-organisations>

Participants will have to provide the name for a point of contact, email address, whether they are participating locally or internationally, number of participants, and school/organisation's name (if applicable) in the registration form.

11. Is there a time limit for participating?

Each participant is required to read for at least 15 minutes.

12. Can patrons participate more than once?

Yes, patrons can participate more than once. The participation will contribute towards Read for Books accordingly. The deadline for updating actual participation via <https://go.gov.sg/rfb25-submit> is 31 Jul 2025 (Thursday), 11.59pm.

13. Is there any organisation providing monetary or in-kind support for this charity event?

Yes, Bubbly Books, Focus Publishing, Kinokuniya, Scholastic Asia, and Singapore Book Publishers Association will be providing a donation-in-kind of books to beneficiaries of Read for Books 2025.

14. Do the activities conducted for Read for Books need to be held between 1 to 31 July 2025?

Yes. Due to audit requirements, we will not be able to take into account reading activities not within the stipulated period.

15. Can my organisation contribute by purchasing books to donate instead of reading for 15 minutes?

No, agencies/organisations can only contribute by reading for 15 minutes as a participant in Read for Books. We are unable to accept book donations at this point. If

your organisation is interested in becoming a monetary donor to future Read for Books, please contact Aaron at Aaron.Tang@nlb.gov.sg

16. Can my organisation donate books to the beneficiaries instead?

No, our beneficiaries have already selected the books that were offered by our donors based on their specific needs to run their reading programmes. We are not able to accept book donations at this point. If your organisation is interested in becoming a donor to future Read for Books, please contact Aaron at Aaron.Tang@nlb.gov.sg

17. Must the participants be all employees of my organisation?

No, organisations can include employees' friends, family or agencies' beneficiaries as participants.

18. Can my organisation carry out multiple Read for Books sessions?

Yes.

19. When do I need to submit the final participation numbers?

To facilitate consolidation, participants should submit the final participation numbers as well as photos at the end of the activity via <https://go.gov.sg/rfb25-submit>.

However, if that is not possible, the numbers must be submitted by 31 Jul 2025 (Thursday), 11.59pm to contribute towards Read for Books via <https://go.gov.sg/rfb25-submit>.

20. Who can I approach should I have further enquiries or feedback about Read for Books 2025?

For further enquiries, please contact Aaron at Aaron.TANG@nlb.gov.sg or Jennifer at Jennifer.HO@nlb.gov.sg