



# Iowa Department for the Blind

524 Fourth Street • Des Moines, IA 50309 • 800-362-2587 or 515-281-1333

January 5, 2024

Dear Parents or Guardians:

We are pleased to send this registration packet for the 2024 Iowa Regional Braille Challenge. It is a unique event that highlights the importance of Braille reading and writing and celebrates Iowa Braille readers. This event is a regional contest of the National Braille Challenge, sponsored by the Braille Institute of America Inc.

The Iowa Braille Challenge will be held on **Saturday, February 24, 2024** at the Department for the Blind in Des Moines, Iowa. Registration begins at 8:30 am, with the opening Pep Rally beginning at 9:30. In the event of poor weather, a snow date has been scheduled for Saturday, March 2, 2024.

Please use the North entrance on Watson Powell Jr. Parkway. Free parking is available again this year.

The **three** items listed below are enclosed in this packet and **must** be completed. Please sign and return them **no later than Friday, January 26, 2024**, since we must order specific tests in time. A return envelope is enclosed for your convenience. If you prefer, you can submit the forms online at <https://seam.ly/kWRshkAj>.

- **Parent Permission Form**
- **Student Interest Survey** - Information may be used to introduce your student to members of the audience on the day of the Iowa Braille Challenge.
- **Sign Up Form**

Box lunches and t-shirts will be provided **free of charge to students attending**. Lunch will also be provided to family members attending. T-shirts for family members will also be sold by the Friends of the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. More information will be coming soon.

There is no charge for students to participate in the Iowa Braille Challenge. All competing students are recognized.

This year, we will be offering:

- Lodging available at no cost for Friday and/or Saturday nights.
- Travel reimbursement of \$50.00 for families who live more than 50 miles from Des Moines.
- Braille and Tactile Workshop
- Build-A-Critter and Story Workshop

Please watch your email for more information on these opportunities.

Participants are encouraged to bring their own equipment for the contest, although we will have spares available in case of malfunction or if you cannot bring your own. Additionally, be sure to label the student's equipment with his/her name.

You will need the following:

- Perkins Braillewriter, any style except electric

Sophomore, Junior Varsity, and Varsity levels (grades 5-12):

- Victor Reader Stream or APH Bookport Plus
- Earphones
- NLS digital players and headphones will be provided

Once again, the scoring of the speed and accuracy contest will be completed by The Braille Institute of America, Inc. Local prizes will be awarded for all tests, except speed and accuracy. To be considered for the finals, students must take all tests at grade level.

We look forward to a fun and rewarding day of contests and activities as we celebrate Braille literacy!

Best regards,

*Karen*

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