

Collier Kids Read A Zebra Herd Worth of Books This Summer

What: Imagine a huge balance scale. On one side, you have all the books area children read during Collier County Public Library's *Who's Reading Another Ton?* Summer Reading Program. To balance that giant scale, you would need to herd a total of 19 zebras, each weighing an impressive 600 pounds, onto the other side of the scale. (*Fun photo available.*)

Kids who registered for the library's summer reading program were encouraged to use their summer vacation to read books checked out from one of nine county library locations and then have them weighed at any library branch. 591 children responded to the challenge, reading a total of 11,254.5 pounds of books. Each child who read more than 40 pounds of books was eligible to enter a drawing for one of two grand prizes, family memberships at Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens. The two winners would also have the opportunity to appear in one of the Zoo's premiere shows.

On Saturday, September 24, six-year-old Julia Donzanti of Marco Island and eleven-year-old Brandon Diaz of Naples will "star" in the Zoo's 11:30 a.m. Planet Predator show and receive their awards. Rumor has it that the Zoo membership certificates will arrive via special wild animal delivery and that the children will be recognized for their outstanding reading accomplishments. (Of course, the zebras wanted to attend, but there was just not enough room to accommodate all 19 of them. Besides, getting them on that scale was hard enough.)

When: **Saturday, September 24 at 11:30 a.m.**

Where: **Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens**
1590 Goodlette-Frank Road (across from Coastland Center)

Contacts: Denise Rendina
Naples Zoo Public Relations Director
239-262-5409 ext. 122 or 239-249-1115 (mobile)

Linda Fasulo
Collier County Public Libraries Public Relations Specialist
239-593-3511 ext. 12

Photos: **Fun photo of books & zebras on giant scale** available from denise@napleszoo.com
Photo ops this Saturday at 11:30 a.m. with kids receiving awards by wild animal delivery