

2009 Idaho Summer Reading Program: Be Creative @ Your Library

Grant number: T08106 00

Program dates: April – August 2009



Idaho public libraries annually report on their summer reading participation through an online survey, and the information they provide is the basis for this section of the report.

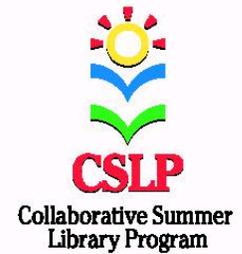
- Total number of children registered for summer reading: **63,300 (38% increase over 2008)**
- Number of libraries reporting: **115**
- Participation through outreach programs: **20,700**
- Total number of books provided for at risk children: **14,585**
- Number of schools visited by all public libraries: **263**
- **96 (68%)** libraries applied for at least 1 Bright Futures opportunity (9% increase over 2008)
- In addition, the Fred Meyer Foundation provided a grant of **\$15,000** to purchase **6,290 books** distributed by **117 libraries** in the “Books for Summer Readers” program



Children participate in art projects at the Jerome Public Library's summer reading program “Be Creative @ Your Library.”



Idaho is a member of the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP), a grassroots consortium of 48 states working together to provide high-quality summer reading program materials for children at the lowest cost possible for their public libraries. In Idaho, approximately 96% of reporting libraries used the CSLP theme “Be Creative” and 78% rated the materials excellent or very good.



For teens (defined as age 11 and older): 79.5% of reporting libraries allow younger teens to participate and 58% allow high school age. About 33% of libraries who did a separate program for teens used the CSLP theme “Express Yourself.” Eighty-six libraries reported teen participation. Total number reported was 5,862 teens.

Bright Futures, our statewide outreach effort, completed its fifth year in 2009. The purpose is to increase participation in summer reading, especially for underserved children, through stronger partnerships with elementary schools and community organizations. The Commission offered libraries four opportunities to receive additional resources for their summer reading outreach efforts. This year 96 libraries applied and met the requirements to participate.

2009 Bright Futures Outcomes:

Overall, **96 libraries** applied to participate in at least one of the Bright Futures opportunities to increase their summer reading participation.

- **School Visits: 92 libraries** applied for materials to distribute during spring visits to **242 elementary schools** to promote summer reading. Libraries estimated they would reach at least **78,700 school-age children (a 6% increase over 2008)** during the school visits.

- **Read for Your Library public library/school library partnerships: 53 libraries** partnered with **79 elementary schools (an 8% increase over 2008)** in Bright Future’s “Read for Your Library” program to encourage school administrators and teachers to actively support summer reading. Public librarians met with principals to set participation goals for their school,

librarians made presentations to parents and teacher groups and encouraged principals to attend at least one summer reading program. Schools also were encouraged to hold an event, such as a school assembly, in the fall to recognize children who participated in library summer reading programs.



Outreach to Underserved Children: 54 libraries (an 8% increase over 2008) took their summer reading program to the community.

Summer reading display at the Willow Creek Elementary School, a partner of the Nampa Public Library

Participating libraries agreed to provide two programs outside the library during the summer. These libraries distributed over **14,585 (a 4% increase over 2008)** free paperback books to children at daycares, summer nutrition programs in parks, summer school, Boys and Girls clubs, and other community sites.

- **Web 2.0: 74 libraries (a 2% increase over 2008)** utilized their library website to promote summer reading. To qualify, library websites needed to feature an interactive technology, such as a blog, downloadable forms, games and activities, or online registration.

Fred Meyer “Books for Summer Readers”

The Fred Meyer Foundation has provided funding for giveaway books for children participating in summer reading programs since 2006. In 2009, the Foundation provided a grant of \$15,000 to purchase books. Six thousand two hundred ninety (6290) books were purchased from Scholastic’s “Literacy Partners” catalog for the 117 libraries who applied online to participate. Books were mailed to libraries in early July. Books were distributed on a formula derived from last year’s summer reading participation at each library.



Comments from librarians regarding factors that increased participation:

- Our visits to the school to perform the summer reading program puppet show attracted a lot of students. We were able to reinforce summer reading by talking to the children when they came with their classes to the library for field trips the last week of school.
- The Bright Futures program has a major impact on our ability to reach the children to inform them of summer reading. It also enables us to have a better summer reading program.
- Your materials are very professional, and help get the kids excited about summer reading programming.
- School visits help a great deal to inform kids about summer reading and we saw many kids in the library this summer because of those visits. I think if school teachers and librarians were more involved, at the very least by informing kids about summer reading fun, and perhaps providing incentives to attend, it would help to bring more kids in.
- It is very important to go into the schools and classrooms with something that gets the children to have a desire to come to the library with a parent and want to sign up for the summer reading programs. I feel the increase in enrollment of our programs comes from visiting with the children in the classrooms.
- The more outreach we do the more we see children in the library and reading. We have been very busy and enjoy watching our library be used more.
- The school visits are incredible! Getting the kids excited about the prizes and the books at the library is amazing, and that excitement is palpable.
- We did more school visits, and the principal at the school we partnered with really encouraged the kids to attend – I think that helped boost our attendance.

- I'm still working on the actual numbers of participation from schools that we visited, but I believe that the amount of outreach we provided directly affects the number of kids that sign-up for our program.

Additional open-ended comments:

- Bright Futures has really strengthened our school partnership and we are seeing tangible benefits, including a 51% increase in registration this year, AND visits during the program from 4 teachers, school librarian, and the principal.
- We appreciated the support of Bright Futures in marketing and promoting our Summer Reading program--it is nice being able to provide more than we would be able to on our own.
- Thank you for all your work to bring these opportunities to Idaho public libraries - we truly appreciate all of it!
- Thank you so much for your ongoing support of the library summer reading programs. This is a vital service for our community and we couldn't offer it without your support.
- It was a great theme and had so many wonderful ideas. Thank you for all your support and help.