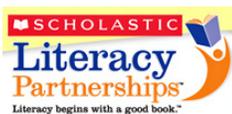


Sources for Free or Low-Cost Books

(to use as give-aways or prizes)

Scholastic Literacy Partnerships: www.scholastic.com/literacypartnerships



Literacy Partnerships is a book discounting program that allows libraries, schools, and other organizations to purchase high-quality, low-cost paperback books to use as giveaways to children. Books average \$2- \$4, and several times each year SLP sends out special offers, such as their \$1 deals.

[More information](#)

Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP): www.csllpreads.org



The CSLP will soon have high-quality, low-cost paperback books available for libraries to purchase. The books are theme-related and are supplied by Scholastic Literacy Partnerships. If you do not have a literacy partnership established with Scholastic this option will allow you to access a limited selection of titles for around the same price. You will need to login to the csllpreads.org website to order these books. CSLP hopes to have order information posted on the website soon. We will notify libraries when we receive word that it's posted and ready.

First Book: www.firstbook.org

(This is the national program, not the Read to Me program)



To be eligible for First Book at least 50 percent of the children in your summer reading program must come from low-income families. Eligible programs receive access to the [First Book Marketplace](#), which offers new books at 50 to 90 percent off retail prices. If you serve a higher proportion of children in need — 80 percent or more — then your program may also be eligible for free books through the First Book National Book Bank and book grants through First Book's local Advisory Boards. You usually need to pay the shipping and handling costs of the free books, which is currently about \$0.35 per book.

To access these resources, complete the online registration at the web address above. It only takes a few minutes, but you will need to provide documentation of your non-profit status, and provide statistical data that shows you serve low-income children.

Literacy Empowerment Foundation/Reading Resource Project: www.lefbooks.org



The Reading Resource Project is an ongoing program that runs throughout the year. The program distributes softcover books FREE of charge for Read Across America Day, National Drop Everything and Read Day, Children's Book Week, International Children's Book Day, and other literacy programs such as summer reading.

Recipients pay shipping, handling, and administrative costs, which is \$0.68 per softcover book. Reading Resource Project books come in sets of 100 books per set, with at least 10 different titles in each set. Reading levels are available for Pre-K through Second Grade. Book selection and quantity is dependent upon availability, so there is no guarantee of specific titles. Books are sorted and shipped as close to a project's needs as possible, with regard to reading level and topic. Books are available in a limited quantity on a first come, first served basis. Requests for quantities of less than 30 sets can be shipped within 3 to 4 weeks; larger orders may require a longer time period to fill.

Continued...

Tight budget? Here are a few suggestions to increase your funding for giveaway books:

- 1) Make a presentation to your **Friends of the Library** group and request funding from Friends-sponsored book sales or special events. Feel free to use the PowerPoint slides on the ICfL summer reading resource page: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/summer-reading>
- 2) Order additional incentive items from the **CSLP product catalog**, and sell them to through the library's bookstore or Friends-sponsored events. This is allowable only if *all profits* are reinvested in your summer reading program (i.e., you cannot use profits to supplement the library's general operating budget). There is currently no policy regarding markup percentage.
- 3) Ask your community for gently-used paperback book donations. Use these for give-aways.
- 4) Solicit local businesses or organizations for cash donations to buy books. Place a sticker in the books acknowledging the donors as "sponsors" of summer reading. Avery address labels work well for this. A couple hundred dollars can go a long way if you use one of the sources listed above!
- 5) Try the old-fashioned bake sale! Catchy (if not corny) phrases: Brownies for Books, Sweets for Summer Reading or Sweets for Stories; One World, Many Cookies. You get the picture...
- 6) Some libraries do not actually "give away" books as prizes—they give away a bookplate as the prize and allow the child to choose a book from a stack of newly purchased and cataloged titles. The child puts his or her name on the bookplate and gets to stick it inside the book. He or she then gets to be the first to check out the new book, and when it's returned it becomes part of the library's collection. It's fun for the kids to look for and check out "their" books or books with their friends' names in them. A suggestion to Highsmith at the 2011 CSLP conference was to design bookplates with the summer reading slogans to include in the product catalog.

What are some sources for free/low-cost books or funding ideas that you've used and would like to share? Respond to this [blog post](#).