

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Literacy in the Park Program Kicks Off in Boise and Garden City**

BOISE, Idaho — Literacy in the Park, a summer learning initiative the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) introduced in 2013, will be in full swing June 6 through August 5, offering kids storytime, activities, and books to borrow from traveling lending libraries.

Piggybacking on the Idaho Foodbank's Picnic in the Park program and the Idaho State Department of Education's Summer Food Service Program, ICfL and local libraries stage Literacy in the Park events weekly at 26 summer-feeding locations in Boise and Garden City. Literacy in the Park is open to all children in the community.

ICfL's traveling lending libraries, which they've dubbed "Little Libraries," are large plastic bins filled with a variety of books of interest to children 1-18 years old. They offer a generous read-and-return process, where kids can borrow a book for as long as they want and then return it to any Literacy in the Park location and choose another one.

State Librarian Ann Joslin points to the success of the project in the previous three years. "Parents and children really enjoyed the activities and the books, and there's solid evidence the program helped a sizable number of kids to read more compared to previous summers," she said. "They work hard to become better readers over the school year, and it is important those gains aren't lost. Children who read six or more books over the summer hang onto their reading skills better than those who don't." See the Literacy in the Park schedule for Boise and Garden City at [libraries.idaho.gov/page/literacy-park](http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/literacy-park).

The Literacy in the Park project is made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

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The Idaho Commission for Libraries helps libraries build the capacity to better serve their communities by supporting statewide databases and online resources, continuing education, consulting, programming, early literacy skills, and building library community. Visit [libraries.idaho.gov](http://libraries.idaho.gov) to learn more about ICfL.

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