



## A Sampling of What Idaho Libraries are Doing to Celebrate Idaho Family Reading Week

This year the Read to Me program is partnering with [Idaho's Be Outside project](#) to promote the wonders of nature we Idahoans enjoy right in our backyard along with the joy of family reading. This year's theme is "Idaho is Wild About Reading."

So far, 115 public and school libraries have indicated they are planning events during Idaho Family Reading Week, November 15 – 21, 2009. Libraries that have registered received two free hardcover books to add to their library collections and are eligible for a drawing of 12 nature books. Here is a small sampling of the 63 responses to the request that asked them to "tell us about anything fun or special planned for Family Reading Week that you'd like to share with other Idaho libraries."

Oregon Trail Elementary in Twin Falls will be hosting a family campfire reading night. "Families will be able to enjoy dinner and lots of good stories around our campfire. We will have reading projects for families to make and fun prizes to give away," Oregon Trail's Vista Coordinator said.

"Being an area with a high timber industry, we are researching items available from the Idaho Forest Products Commission to incorporate into the Family Reading display. Both Family reading week and National Forest Week coincide and overlap. We are encouraging families to collect items outside to make creatures or pictures for our Autumn display," Boundary County Library Children's Librarians Cari Haarstick and Teri Neumayer reported.

Staff in McCall are also taking advantage of community resources to promote the week. "We are partnering with the McCall Outdoor Science School and Snowdon Wildlife Sanctuary for a 'Where the Wild Things Are' evening at the library. Our plans include a science school introduction to how nocturnal animals see at night, a night walk through the forest in the back of the library, and a visit from Ollie the Great Horned Owl from the wildlife sanctuary. If there is time, students will have the opportunity to create their own "Wild Thing" from recycled materials," McCall Public Library Programming Librarian Meg Lojek said.

Kuna District Library will be having two main events: an interactive visit from Adaire Evans of the Idaho Fish & Game Dept and a family campfire singalong. Staff member Sara Pemberton writes, "For the singalong, we'll have a (fake) fire, "scary" stories, and live music. We'll also have a drop-in activity for families who can't make it to the programs, most likely an outdoor book-themed scavenger hunt." They will also tailor all

of their weekly programs to fit the theme, from afterschool programs to Mini Monets, Storytime, and Music & Movement. "We love having the opportunity to get Kuna families excited about reading, especially as outdoor activities wind down and families look for alternate activities. (Sneaky!) We consider Family Reading Week a chance to thank the community and give back to everyone who supports us all year long. Kids still remember how much fun they had at "pirate parties" last year, and treasure their copies of *How I Became a Pirate*. Family Reading Week ensures that the library isn't just the place to be during the summer, it's a source of fun and great reads all year long," Sara said.

"We are having a sing-along and our local musician will perform on banjo and guitar. We are also having a local dance troupe perform the Maurice Sendak book *Where the Wild Things Are*," Spirit Lake Branch Manager Kathleen Werthman-Gizdich said.

"We are doing a Back Country Family Storytime on Monday the 16th. We will be telling and reading stories and singing with our guitar playing staff. We plan to have an outdoorsy treat as well. It should be a great time for everyone," Liesl Seborg of the Hidden Springs Branch of Ada Community Library said.

Dawn Kindberg at Nampa Public says, "We are planning a 'Storybook on Stage' event with stories, puppets, 'acting' and appearances by special guests such as 'Explorer Booker Bee,' and others. The event will last approximately 40 minutes and be for families and all ages! We also are planning on putting together a literacy packet for all participants that will include handouts from the CD as well as fun activity sheets."

The Gooding Public Library and Gooding School District Libraries are working together to promote Family Reading Week. All the libraries will feature crafts, treats, and activities all week. They have printed passports for everyone and if the passports have stamps from a school library and the public library then children will receive a free book.

Bonnie Pratt, the Idaho Reads! VISTA Volunteer at the Hayden Kinder Center, has a fun evening planned. "We will read the book *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*. Various activities centered around weather will be set up for families to enjoy with their children. Each family will enjoy a spaghetti and meatball dinner and listen to the story. The evening will be capped by each child going home with a copy of the book," she said.

"On Monday, November 16th, we are planning a party at the library to kick off and celebrate Family Reading Week. Every year we partner with the local elementary school and put on quite an event! This year we plan to have the principal's wife as our guest reader. Weippe Youth Services Librarian Melissa Mayberry said. "This is my second year planning Family Read Week and I am really looking forward to it! Last year I didn't know what to expect and I was very nervous. It turned out to be a blast and now I know

that this year will be great as well. I LOVE this year's theme, as I love the outdoors and the wild! Thank you for all the wonderful resources!"

Amy Despain at White Pine Intermediate School is having different students read books that have to do with the wild and will record them on video doing a two-minute booktalk. "We will show one a day to the whole school on the network," she said. "We will also have a wildlife display for the students to look at in the library, and send fliers home encouraging families to be wild about reading."

The West Bonner Library District is planning a Saturday breakfast and book reading with guests from the Albeni Falls Dam Corp of Engineers Ranger. Youth Services coordinator Jean Hauritz also writes "This is a great way to promote reading and our great state."

Judi Owens, librarian at Mullan Trail Elementary School in Post Falls tied the Family Reading Week theme in with their school's mascot. "We are the Mullan Trail Moose and will be holding a 'Moose and a muffin' event before school featuring moose stories, moose antler displays and information from Idaho Fish and Game Department, and a moose craft.

Madison Junior High District Librarian Linda Hill isn't going to let the elementary students have all the fun. "We are planning to bring in outdoor specialist that would appeal to our junior high students. Possible ideas include: A surgeon who grows giant pumpkins, a rock climber, kayak videos, & a slack lining demonstration."

"For our family event we plan to invite children from the summer reading program who received cameras as prizes to share photos they have taken in their own Idaho backyards. We will present a slide show of the photos and Idaho trivia on the "big screen." Snacks will include Idaho potato chips," writes Plummer Public Library Director Paulina Freeburg.

Ida Courier, an Idaho Reads! VISTA volunteer at Potlatch Elementary School is planning on tapping into some area authors. "We have many authors in our community who write about local history and the outdoors. Having them come to our school and share their stories will encourage our students to be more aware of their environment and read more to explore other nature topics," she said.

We plan to have Ken Thomsma, author of *Naya Nuki*, come and do a storytelling. We will also have a sing along of campfire songs etc, along with refreshments and crafts. - Emily Hansen, Children's Librarian at the Fremont County District Library, St. Anthony Branch

Along with special guests to read nature-oriented books and/or stories, we are planning for each family to create a nature wreath to take home. Weather permitting we are planning a scavenger hunt to gather the materials to create the wreath. If not we will already have items ready to use. - *Gail Rowe, Osburn*

We plan to build our evening of fun around tracks. Our speaker will be a Fish and Game officer who can bring some displays of tracks, hides and scat for guessing games. We'll have "Dirt Cake" for dessert. - *Tammy Dahle, Salmon Public Library*

We are planning an evening storytime with tents set up around the library with reading stations in them. The kids can come to snack on campfire foods, read books about the great outdoors, and see a puppet show put on by the local Forest Service. - *Krissi Hansen, Council Valley Free Public Library*

We are planning on having several stations set up that they can learn about different places right here in our area. We will have a stamp for each station and they will need to get their passport all filled to get a prize. - *Laurie Willmore, Menan Annis Library*

We plan to have an outdoor craft and snack for an after-school program. We hope the students will then go home and encourage their parents to come a family evening at the library. Also we will give books away all week in drawings held every day the library is open. - *Sharon Harris, Nezperce Community Library*

Mark Miller, author of "Adventures in Yellowstone," is working on a children's book. He will be presenting an evening story hour for families at the library. - *Amber Kent, Madison Library District*

The evening event will be for students and their families. Everyone will be encouraged to bring their sleeping bags, flashlight and a book. We will read stories together, have a scary story time with our principal, and our fifth grade teacher will set up his telescope to help students see all of the stars and planets in the sky that night. It is great to get a closer look at the moon we see all of the time. We will have S'more cookies at the end before everyone goes home. - *Shelly Fannesbeck, Jefferson Elementary, Rigby*

We will be displaying the "Sensory Safari" from the Idaho Chapter of the Safari Club. This features touchable mounts of wild animal mounts. Due to the huge response of our last year's program, we will be holding Family Reading Night as an open house with various activities, games, booths, readers, etc. rather than a discrete program. Children can earn a free book by filling in a scavenger hunt card as they view the animals and participate in activities. - *Francine Rudeen, American Falls District Library*