



325 West State Street
Boise, Idaho 83702

p. 208.334.2150 | 800.458.3271
f. 208.334.4016

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: 29 May 2012

Information Contacts: Staci Shaw, Idaho Commission for Libraries, 208-334-2150 or staci.shaw@libraries.idaho.gov
Teresa Lipus, Idaho Commission for Libraries, 208-334-2150 or teresa.lipus@libraries.idaho.gov

Let the Fun Begin: Summer Reading Starts Soon at Your Library

BOISE, ID – Kids across Idaho are invited to sign up at their local library for another great season of Summer Reading. This popular program kicks off in June at public libraries around the state, with books, games, projects, and prizes. Summer Reading activities are offered free to children statewide, with support from the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL). Participation has tripled since 2001. Last summer, over 71,000 kids participated at 140 Idaho public library locations from Bear Lake to Boundary County—another record-breaking total for Summer Reading program attendance.

Summer Reading programs, one component of ICfL's Read to Me program, are designed to help children maintain or improve their reading readiness when they go back to school. ICfL Summer Reading coordinators provide libraries with program resources based on sound research and best practices. "Summer Reading programs are designed to help children maintain or improve their reading readiness when they go back to school," said State Librarian Ann Joslin. "Research shows that children who continue reading over the summer are likely to maintain or improve their reading skills; those who don't are likely to lose the gains they made during the school year."

In addition to providing reading incentives to children, libraries offering Summer Reading also provide fun events such as puppet shows, craft programs, and author visits. Many libraries offer teen programs, such as Books-to-Movies events, Mystery parties, and more. The theme for Summer Reading 2012 is "Nighttime;" the children's slogan is "Dream Big— Read" and the teen slogan is "Own the Night." Some libraries even offer summer reading programs for adults.

Find out more about the Summer Reading Program at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/summer-reading> or contact your local library to discover what they are offering this summer.

--end--

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICFL) assists libraries to build the capacity to better serve their clientele. To learn more about ICFL, visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/>.