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NEWS RELEASE

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Calling All Kids: Summer Reading Means Summer Fun at Your Library

BOISE, ID – Kids across Idaho are invited to sign up at their local library for another fun 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). Last summer, over 69,000 kids participated at 131 Idaho public libraries, from Aberdeen to Weippe. Libraries hope to break last year’s record participation this year and have been working with schools and other community partners to include as many children as possible.

Summer Reading programs are designed to help children maintain or improve their reading skills when they go back to school. ICfL Summer Reading coordinators provide libraries with summer program resources based on sound research and best practices. “The kids enjoy the programs, and at the same time keep their reading skills sharp for the coming school year,” said State Librarian Ann Joslin. “Numerous studies have shown that reading over the summer prevents summer reading loss.” 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 2011 is “One World, Many Stories” for kids birth to 11 and “You are Here” for kids ages 12 and up.

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.

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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/>.