
The Idaho Commission for Libraries assists libraries to build the capacity to better serve their communities.

NEWS RELEASE

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Library Summer Reading Programs Curtail Summer Learning Loss

BOISE, ID –Summer may seem like the perfect time of year for youth to relax, but it’s also the season where the most significant learning loss occurs. Experts agree that the easiest way for students to maintain the gains made throughout the school year is to keep reading during their out-of-school time. The summer reading programs offered by Idaho public libraries keep kids connected to reading and learning opportunities over the summer.

“In addition to the in-house programs offered by nearly every library, librarians are doing more and more to reach out to youth who have barriers to participating,” said State Librarian Ann Joslin. “Many are partnering with their local parks and rec departments, summer nutrition sites, schools, and community organizations to reach children who have limited access to books during the summer—an effort that is fueling both bodies and minds. We are excited about how these partnerships are shaping up and the collective determination to ensure that fewer kids arrive at school in the fall behind their peers who have had access to books.”

The Idaho Commission for Libraries also is collaborating with the State Department of Parks and Recreation for the second year to offer free Youth Explorer Passes to Idaho libraries that are hosting summer reading programs. In addition, Fred Meyer Stores has awarded a \$15,000 grant to the Commission to purchase paperback books for the libraries’ summer reading programs to get more books into the hands of Idaho children, and the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation has donated backpacks for those kids to tote their books wherever they go this summer.

Approximately 84,000 Idaho youth participated in library summer reading programs in 2015. Kids across Idaho are invited to sign up at their local library for another great season of Summer Reading. Find out more about Summer Reading at libraries.idaho.gov/landing/summer-reading or contact your local library to discover what they are offering this summer, and where.

Summer Reading 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 to learn more about ICfL.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. Its mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. IMLS grant making, policy development, and research help libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive. Visit www.imls.gov to learn more about the IMLS.