



City of  
**OAKLAND**  
California

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## News from: **Oakland Public Library**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 4, 2015

### **Summer Reading and Fun for Children, Teens, and Adults at the Oakland Public Library**

**Oakland, CA** – The Oakland Public Library has reading, fun, and adventure for children, teens, and adults this summer. For kids and adults, the library is offering its annual Summer Reading Challenge, with various incentives designed to get people reading and visiting the library. Teens can participate in the Teen Summer Passport, a fun program that encourages teens to engage with their community while visiting cultural spots around the Bay Area. Summer Reading and the Passport program begin June 13 and conclude on August 8. Free lunch for youths will be available at several library locations.

“The state of California hopes to get one million readers this summer and Oakland is committed to doing its part to make it happen!” said Mayor Libby Schaaf. “Studies show that kids who don’t read during the summer lose approximately two months’ worth of gains made during the school year. Oakland’s free easy-to-access summer reading program is fun and built to make sure that Oakland students stay on course academically while developing a lifelong love of books.”

Library Director Gerry Garzon says, “People of all ages can be part of the summer challenge. Summer is for reading and fun for everyone and we look forward to welcoming regular and new patrons to our libraries this summer.”

In 2014, more than 10,000 children participated in the Oakland Public Library’s **Summer Reading Program**, with over 5,000 kids reading 20 or more days during the summer.

This year, the library expects even more kids to meet the reading challenge, and has lined up a summer’s worth of free events featuring live animals, puppet shows, music, magic, arts and crafts, and more to provide free programs that will entice kids into all of the library’s locations. Many library locations will also offer free lunch for children and teens. “Read to the Rhythm” is the theme of the 2015 Summer Reading Challenge.

Children participating in the Summer Reading Challenge may read anything they want, so they can pursue subjects and themes of their own interest while kindling a personal love of reading. Numerous studies have found that children who select books for themselves, and participate in reading as a leisure activity, improve their reading comprehension, vocabulary, spelling, and writing skills.

Pre-readers can participate by having someone read to them, and parents are encouraged to read to their babies and toddlers. Babies learn by hearing words from people who love them, every day, and Summer Reading celebrates this with special age-appropriate prizes.

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All kids who read 20 days in the summer will receive a free book, a badge, and coupons to local attractions, and be eligible to win other prizes, such as passes, science kits, or ukuleles. Special grand prize drawings will include an iPad (for kids age 5-14) and a family membership at Children's Fairyland (for ages 0-4).

To sign up, visit [www.oaklandsummerreading.com](http://www.oaklandsummerreading.com) or drop by your neighborhood library and pick up a reading log.

Major supporters of the 2015 Summer Reading Program are Friends of the Oakland Public Library, Fentons Creamery, William G. Gilmore Foundation, The Bernard Osher Foundation, The Kenneth Rainin Foundation, and Union Pacific Foundation. Other donors include Children's Fairyland, Alameda/Oakland Ferry Services, Chabot Space & Science Center, Children's Creativity Museum, Grand Lake Theater, HomeTown Buffet, Lake Merritt Boathouse, Lawrence Hall of Science, MOCHA, Oakland A's, Oakland Ice Center, Oakland Museum of California, and Pasta Pomodoro.

The **Teen Summer Passport Program** encourages teens (ages 12-18) to explore their community and receive passport stamps for visiting museums, skate parks, farmers' markets, and attending Library programs, with participation rewarded by a chance to win great prizes, including an iPad Mini, and iPod Touch, or a laptop. Teens are also encouraged to earn Passport stamps by volunteering and by submitting reviews of books, movies, and video games! Summer programs at various library locations will include henna workshops and a series of craft workshops led by local artists from the Rock Paper Scissors collective.

Participants in the **Adult Summer Reading program** can read a book, write a review, or do three library activities for a chance to win a prize.

The Library will offer **Free Summer Lunch for Youth** (ages 18 and under) at nine library locations: 81<sup>st</sup> Avenue Branch, Cesar E. Chavez Branch, Dimond Branch, Eastmont Branch, Elmhurst Branch, Golden Gate Branch, Martin Luther King, Jr. Branch, Melrose Branch, and the Main Library. This is the 5th year that OPL has partnered with the City's Department of Human Services and the Alameda County Community Food Bank to provide this great service. Oakland has been touted as the model in California to follow!

For more information, please [www.oaklandsummerreading.com](http://www.oaklandsummerreading.com) or contact Sharon McKellar, Community Relations Librarian, at 238-3513 or [smckellar@oaklandlibrary.org](mailto:smckellar@oaklandlibrary.org); or Winifred Walters, Community Relations Manager, at 510-6932 or [wwalters@oaklandlibrary.org](mailto:wwalters@oaklandlibrary.org).

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