



City of
OAKLAND
California

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News from: **Oakland Public Library**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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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, 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 earn digital badges and engage with their community while visiting cultural spots around the Bay Area. Summer Reading and the Passport program begin June 11 and conclude on August 6. Free lunch for youths will be available at several library locations.

Summer at the Library kicks off with two special events. On Friday, June 10th, from 1-3pm at the 81st Avenue Library is the Kids Summer Reading Kickoff, with Play-Well TEKnologies Legos® building, arts and crafts with the Museum of Children's Art, and a special acrobatic performance by Coventry & Koluza. All children attending will receive a free book to start their summer reading. On Saturday June 11th the Library's Youth Leadership Council will host Culture Fest, an all-ages event from 12-2pm, an annual event held at the Main Library, located at 125 14th St. Turf dancing, live band performances, and poetry readings from finalists in the Oakland Youth Poet Laureate Program will be featured as well as a henna workshop and food from around the globe.

Library Director Gerry Garzon says, "People of all ages can be part of the Library's summer activities. Summer is a great time for reading and community engagement and we look forward to welcoming regular and new patrons to our libraries this summer."

In 2015, almost 10,000 children participated in the Oakland Public Library's **Summer Reading**, 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. "Read. Create. Explore." is the theme for summer reading this year.

Children participating in Summer Reading 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

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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.

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, or Lego sets. 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.oaklandlibrary.org/summer or drop by your neighborhood library and pick up a reading log.

Major supporters of 2016 Summer Reading 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 Aquatech, Athletic Playground, Bladium Sports & Fitness Club, Bookmark Bookstore, California Canoe & Kayak, Chronicle Books, Cookiebar Creamery, The Crucible, East Oakland Sport Center, Filhos de Bimba California Bay Area School of Capoeira, Flavor Brigade, Folkmanis, Grand Lake Theater, Kinetic Arts Center, Lake Merritt Boating Center, Landmark Theatres (Piedmont Ave Theatre), Laurel Book Store, The Laurel Cyclery, The New Parkway Theater, Oakland Athletics, Oakland Ballet Company, Oakland Museum of California, Oakland Symphony, Oakland Zoo, OPL's 81st Avenue Bike Clinic AND The Original Scraper Bike Team, Plank, San Francisco Bay Ferry, Studio Naga, and USS Potomac.

The **Teen Summer Passport Program** encourages teens (ages 12-18) to explore their community and receive virtual passport stamps for visiting museums, skate parks, and farmers' markets, and attending Library programs and volunteering for the Library, with participation rewarded by a chance to win great prizes, including an iPad Mini, a laptop, or a Chromebook. Teens are also encouraged to submit music, book, video games, and movie reviews and create book lists of their favorite books. Summer programs at various library locations will include henna workshops and a series of comic, stop motion animation, and craft workshops led by local artists from the Rock Paper Scissors Collective and Oakland Hand Made.

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: 81st 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 6th 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.

For more information, please visit www.oaklandlibrary.org/summer or contact Winifred Walters, Community Relations Manager, at 510-238-6932 or wwalters@oaklandlibrary.org.