



Sacramento Public Library Authority

May 24, 2012

Agenda Item 3.0: 2012 Summer Reading Program

TO: Sacramento Public Library Authority Board Members

FROM: Lori Easterwood, Programming Supervisor

RE: 2012 Summer Reading Program

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S): None. Information only.

The 2012 Summer Reading Program theme is “Dream Big: READ!” and has inspired a programming lineup featuring everything from crafting dream-catchers to educational astronomy programs. Running from June 1st through August 15th, the Library will present more than 500 programs across the county, made possible by the generosity of the Sacramento Public Library Foundation and the Friends of the Sacramento Public Library. All programs are offered at no cost to participants. Last year 26,748 people signed up for Summer Reading and over 47,000 attended library programs over the summer months—the goal is to increase those numbers for the third year running to have the most successful Summer Reading to date!

The system-wide Kickoff event will be held at the Central Library on Sunday, June 3rd. This family focused event will have a carnivalesque atmosphere—featuring jugglers, balloon tying, face painting, henna tattoos, hula hooping, crafts, a storytime, costumed book characters, and more. Summer Reading won’t stop at the library, however. In addition to outreach to classrooms, the Library is partnering with Head Start programs, Summer Enrichment programs, the Sacramento Food Bank, and other organizations to bring the Summer Reading Program to people and families who can’t get to the Library. The Library will also promote Summer Reading across its various social media platforms and blogs, including saclib.tumblr.com where participants are invited to submit a photo and brief account of a book that has inspired them to “Dream Big.”

Attendance at Library events is free open to anyone, but those who register with the Summer Reading Program are eligible for some exciting incentives. For completing the program, those under 18 receive a book of their choice, while adults receive a Sacramento Public Library book bag. Those who finish the program are also entered in to a grand prize drawing, with prizes including iPads (one each) for adults, teens, and school-age children, and a \$100 gift certificate to Target for pre-readers.

Students need to practice what they’ve learned over the summer to maintain reading abilities, and reading for fun as part of the Summer Reading Program is a great way for kids to keep their reading muscles in shape. The benefits don’t stop there, though – reading for fun leads to reading more, and reading more can help anyone read better, as well as increase vocabulary, improve writing skills, and even reduce stress.

The Sacramento Public Library’s Summer Reading program is a way for people of all ages and reading levels to have fun reading this summer.