



Sacramento Public Library Authority

Agenda Item 4.1: 2013 Summer Reading Program

TO: Sacramento Public Library Authority Board Members
FROM: Christie Hamm, Manager of Youth and Community Services
RE: 2013 Summer Reading Program

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S): None. Information only.

The 2013 Summer Reading Program theme is “Reading is So Delicious!” From June 1 through August 31, the Library will present more than 1,500 free programs, including cooking demonstrations, food literacy programs, food-related crafts and more. This effort is made possible by the generosity of the Sacramento Public Library Foundation and the Friends of the Sacramento Public Library. Last year, 25,493 people signed up for Summer Reading and more than 48,000 people attended library programs over the summer months. The goal this year is to sign up 30,000 summer readers and to read 100,000 books, which would make it the most successful program ever!

The system-wide kickoff event will be held from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Sunday, June 9, at the Central Library. This family-focused event will have a festival atmosphere, featuring jugglers, balloon-tying, face painting, henna tattoos, crafts, the duo Musical Robot and more. In addition, the Sacramento Food Bank will be collecting non-perishable food donations so that everyone can have a delicious summer.

In addition to outreach to classrooms, the Library is partnering with Head Start programs, school 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 is promoting Summer Reading across various social media platforms as well as print media.

A special feature this year will be Summer Meals at the Library, a project of the California Library Association in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Valley-Hi North Laguna Library will serve as a free lunch distribution site Tuesdays through Fridays from June 4 through August 16. Food will be provided by the Elk Grove School Unified District and the program is open to all children through age 18. No signups or documentation are needed. Library staff and volunteers will be providing targeted literacy activities and fun programming for participants and their families as well.

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

The Summer Reading Program is a great way for kids of all ages 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 will show people of all ages and reading levels how Delicious reading can be this summer.