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Tulsa County children challenged to read 2 million books for the library and A Gathering Place

The Tulsa City-County Library's goal date is the opening of A Gathering Place for Tulsa

By Harrison Grimwood Tulsa World 18 hrs ago 0





For more information

Tulsa City-County Library's 2017 Summer Reading Program, an ongoing affair from May 30 to Aug. 5, is available to all children and adults. Those interested in the free program can find out more information online at

tulsalibrary.org/summer.

Those interested in how this ties in with A Gathering Place can also visit

tulsareadingtree.org.



Miles Bonilla is aiming to read 1 million books by the opening date of A Gathering Place for Tulsa.

He challenged other children Tuesday to meet him at that goal, though he may have embellished a bit. Miles, nearly 6 years old, signed up to make his contribution to the Tulsa City-County Library's Summer Reading Program and A Gathering Place's goal of reading 2 million books before the park opens.

"I have fun books — it's a lot," Miles said. "I do have the one the Mayor read."

During the early kick-off to the summer reading program, Mayor G.T. Bynum read "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" to more than a dozen children and several dozen adults.

The library's summer reading program, slated for May 30 to Aug. 5, aims at encouraging children to read this summer.

If a child visits the library four times and reads eight books during that time, they earn a coupon book and a medal. The more a child or teen reads, the better the prizes become, including admission to fun, local places, electronics, gift cards and toys.

"Literacy unlocks so many doors for us ... I participated in this program as a little kid and it made a huge difference for me," Bynum said. "I still have the medal that I won then."

Aaron Bonilla, Miles' dad, echoed that sentiment. His parents

encourage him to read in English and Spanish. Before going to the library, Miles read “Huevos Verdes Con Jamon,” also known as Dr. Seuss’ “Green Eggs and Ham.”

“It’s the essence of all learning,” Bonilla said. “You have to know how to read to get into computer programming, engineering, be a doctor — whatever you want to be.”

The library’s 2017 summer reading program, themed “Build a Better World,” will tie into A Gathering Place. An old cottonwood tree in the northeast corner of the park will be the park’s reading tree, Tony Moore, park director for A Gathering Place, said.



Around that tree and around A Gathering Place, park directors will cultivate reading and cultural programs.

The challenge to read 2 million books will run through the summer, fall and up to the opening of the park, estimated to be next spring or summer.

“It’s a lot of books, indeed, but it’s attainable,” Moore said. “It starts with one child reading one book at a time.”

Those who are interested in participating can visit any Tulsa City-County Library location for more information and to sign up. Interested parties can also visit tulsalibrary.org/summer for more

information.



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