

FAITH & FAMILY

On your mark, get set, read!

BY JENNIFER MCQUADE
Owasso Branch Manager

The Library Summer Reading Program begins Tuesday, May 31 and will go until Saturday, Aug. 6. This year we have a program for every age.

Why is the Summer Reading Program so important?

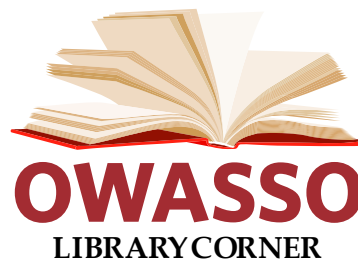
Children can lose momentum during the summer and experience the "summer slide," which can put them at a disadvantage when they start school in the fall. If kids don't read during the summer, research has shown they can lose several months of reading skills and start the next school year 6-8 weeks behind. We want to encourage kids to read over the summer so they are ready to move forward and learn in the fall, rather than spend time catching up.

What's different this year?

- This year, NO library card is required (though we would love for everyone to have a card), and online sign-up is OPTIONAL. However, I suggest you take a look at the new process.

- We are working with a great program called Beanstack, which will send you reading recommendations for your children each week based on their reading level and what they like to read.

- We have several extra challenges for the kiddos in Owasso. First, we have the mayoral challenge. Mayor Bartlett, of Tulsa, has challenged the mayors in all surrounding communities to a competition to see which community will have the most Summer Reading Program completions. We are also challenging Owasso schools with a special trophy this year. The school with the highest percentage of



sign-ups for the Summer Reading Program will be able to proudly display the trophy for the next school year.

Summer Reading Program 101

The Children's program is for children ages birth going into 5th grade.

- Come into the library any time after May 31 to receive your reading log and first visit sticker (or sign up online).

- Children can read, listen to audiobooks or have books read to them. Read eight books and visit

the library four times to receive your medal and book of coupons. The coupon book includes coupons for the Oklahoma Aquarium, the Tulsa State Fair, the Zoo and lots of delicious free food.

- Read an additional 12 books for a total of 20 to receive this year's bonus prize - an inflatable baseball bat.

- The first day for prizes is June 20.

The Tween/Teen program is for kids going into 6th grade through high school - Get in the Game, READ!

- The tween/teen program requires only six books and no library visits.

- Once six books have been read, participants can pick up their coupon book and prize, an ID holder and earbuds, starting June 20.

The Adult Summer Reading

Program - Exercise your mind, READ!

- Mom and Dad (and Grandma and Grandpa, and everyone else) can participate in the reading program too.

- Read four books and turn in your reading log to receive coupons and a library messenger bag.

- Teens ages 16 and older can register for either the Tween/Teen or the Adult reading program.

Stop by the library anytime to pick up a copy of the summer event guide or check out the event guides online for free performances, demonstrations, games, crafts, music, puppets, mosaics, dancing, legos, storytimes and much more.

You can find more information about all the programs at tulsalibrary.org/summer.



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