

BY JOHN FANCHER, COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR, TULSA CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY

Library's Summer Reading Program

FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS



Tulsa City-County Library's 2014 summer reading programs will take children and teens around the world while rewarding young readers with tasty and fun prizes.

The free annual program is ongoing May 27-Aug. 2. To sign up, children and teens, ages newborn to 18, can pick up a reading log at any Tulsa City-County Library to record the titles of the books they read and the visits they make to the library during the summer.

The theme for the children's program is "Fizz, Boom, Read," and the tween/teen program theme is "Spark a Reaction."

By visiting the library four times and reading eight books, children will complete the program and earn a medal of

achievement, a booklet of coupons for free entertainment and food items, and entry into the grand prize drawing. By reading 20 books, readers can earn an LED foam light stick baton. Free coupons include:

- admission to Tulsa Shock game
- cinnamon sticks from Mazzio's Italian Eatery
- admission to Oklahoma Aquarium
- chicken nuggets from Wendy's
- admission to Tulsa Zoo
- chicken nuggets and milk or apple juice from McDonald's
- admission to Tulsa Air and Space Museum
- round-trip bus ride on Tulsa Transit
- admission to Tulsa Drillers game
- glazed doughnut from Krispy Kreme
- admission to Tulsa State Fair
- iced and decorated cookie from Merritt's Bakery
- admission to Tulsa Children's Museum.

Tweens and teens, having completed fifth grade, can reach their goal by reading six books throughout the summer. By completing the program, they will earn a coupon booklet for free entertainment and food items, a lava pen and entry into the grand prize drawing.

The summer reading program is a fun way to keep stu-

dents reading throughout the summer by helping them retain and improve their reading skills.

"With all the prizes, medals and excellent programs, the summer reading program motivates families to bring their children to the library and keep reading," said Marianne Stambaugh, youth services manager. "At the heart of the program, children are devouring books that they choose. Just by reading when school's out, they can prevent the 'summer slide' in their academic skills. By starting young, children develop a love of reading and learning that will continue throughout their lives."

The summer reading program goes beyond the books by offering hundreds of free programs that will thrill the imagination. Performers and presenters from all over Tulsa County, Oklahoma and the nation participate. Look for performances from The Sock Rockerz, The Boogers, Paul Mesner Puppets, The Que Pastas, Tulsa Theater Projects - Magic Man, and many more entertaining and educational performers.

The summer reading program concludes with the Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature. Jack Gantos, author of the Newbery Medal-Winning "Dead End in Norvelt," is the recipient of this year's honor. He will be in Tulsa Aug. 22, 7 p.m. at

Hardesty Regional Library's Connor's Cove, 8316 E. 93rd St., to receive the Zarrow Award and present awards to winners of the 2014 Young People's Creative Writing Contest.

Thank you to the 2014 summer reading program presenting sponsors: Tulsa's Channel 8, Oklahoma Department of Libraries, Tulsa Drillers, Tulsa Shock, Williams and Tulsa Library Trust. Additional support provided by The Mary K. Chapman Foundation and George Kaiser Family Foundation.

Families can enjoy the popular "Storytime in the Park" at Quik-Trip Plaza at River Parks, 41st and Riverside, at 10 a.m. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and join the Reading Roadshow for stories and songs. Sponsored by River Parks Authority and Friends of the Helmerich Library. Each Thursday performance features a performance by these popular artists:

May 29 – Tommy Terrific's Magic of Science

June 5 – Music and dance with Andres Salguero

June 12 – Lucky Diaz & The Family Jam Band

June 19 – American Indian Dances and Storytelling with Mike and Lisa Pahsetopah

June 26 – Vaudeville Magic Show with Chris Capstone

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