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Oshkosh Public Library invites all ages to join Summer Reading Challenge

OSHKOSH, Wis. – Escape into a good story with Oshkosh Public Library’s Summer Reading Challenge, kicking off on June 1.

Readers and learners of all ages are invited to participate, promising a summer filled with imaginative adventures and prizes.

Highlights of this year’s program include:

- Customizable reading and activity trackers, accessible both online at oshkoshpubliclibrary.beanstack.org and at the library.
- Kids who read for 20 minutes and teens who earn 200 activity points will receive a day pass to Pollock Community Water Park, offering a refreshing escape from the heat (*while supplies last*).
- Incentives such as brag tags, books, snacks, gift cards and more to keep kids and teens motivated.
- Free books from the library’s used bookstore, and the chance to win one of six Grand Prize packages for adults.

Participants are encouraged to read what they enjoy and track their progress throughout the summer.

“Summer break is a crucial time to prevent learning loss and promote literacy skills in children,” says Marie Boleman, Head of Children’s & Family Outreach. “Our goal is to encourage a love for learning and exploration, offering a wide range of books, activities and experiences that kids need to thrive academically and creatively.”

The Summer Reading Challenge aligns with insights from the National Center on Afterschool and Summer Enrichment, highlighting the importance of summer learning.

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According to their website, research suggests that “three to four consecutive summers of high-quality learning beginning in pre-kindergarten can get kids reading on grade level by third grade, making them **four times** more likely to graduate from high school.”

Special events for children scheduled throughout the summer include:

- Meet and greet the Zoomobile’s animal ambassadors on June 13 at 2 p.m.
- CLIMB Theatre presents *Country Mouse, City Mouse: Adventures in the Suburbs* on July 2 at 2 p.m.
- Make an instrument and star in the show with Dr. Kickbutt’s Orchestra of Death on July 13 at 10 a.m.
- Paint Along with Ms. Katie from Kids on Canvas on June 5, July 3, Aug. 7 at 1:30 p.m.
- Various creative workshops led by Certified Art Teacher Teresa Moucha, featuring activities such as drawing, bookmaking, and collage and mosaic art. Visit oshkoshpubliclibrary.org for times and dates.

Teens can earn points by reading and completing fun activities, with the chance to win a \$50 Visa Gift Card. Adults are also encouraged to participate, with incentives ranging from library bookstore items to a chance to win one of six Grand Prize drawings, each valued at \$100 or more.

For a complete schedule of summer reading activities and events, including important registration information, visit oshkoshpubliclibrary.org or call 236-5208 (children and teens) or 236-5205 (adults).

The Summer Reading Challenge is made possible through generous support from the Donald Hansen Fund of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation. Additionally, the Zoomobile and CLIMB Theater events are made possible with support from Winnebago Community Credit Union. The library extends its gratitude to the *Oshkosh Herald* for funding the purchase of prize books for children.

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