

Summer reading programs about way more than reading

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FULL TEXT

Did you know that the Fox Cities' libraries offer free summer library programs? Programs are available for all ages; babies, children, teens and adults.

What is a summer library program?

If you're not familiar with our summer library programs, they're pretty awesome. Twenty-first century summer library programs are much more than just recording reading time. While reading is still a main focus, today's programs are much more robust, and include components such as independent creative activities, community events and partnerships, field trips and more.

What are the benefits of the summer library program?

Summer school programs are great, but they don't last all summer. That's where we step in. Summer reading and activities for children can help prevent "summer slide" – the loss of reading skills over the summer months. Summer slide can happen to any child, but is more prevalent in children from low-income families. Research shows that if children are not engaged in activities or reading throughout the summer, their reading achievement will drop an average of three months. This loss is cumulative from one year to the next, regardless of the quality of their school.

The good news? Research has also shown that children who participate in summer library programs score higher on reading tests at the beginning of the next school year than those who do not participate.

There are other important benefits to participating in summer library programs, and they're not just for children.

Summer library programs introduce goal setting, an important skill for teens to master as they age. Our programs also encourage teens to meet new people and engage with their community – helping them grow to become leaders in our community.

Our adult programs offer all of the same benefits as the teen programs, while also promoting lifelong learning.

There is one last thing we don't want to forget to mention. We have amazing community partners who donate participation prizes to our programs. Our community members win these prizes, which connects them to businesses, helping to boost the economy.

Make sure you check out some of your local summer library programs this summer.

Fox Cities Summer Library Programs

Appleton Public Library: June 12 to Aug. 13; registration open; www.apl.org/summer

Kaukauna Public Library: June 12 to Aug. 14; registration for adult program open, registration for youth programs not required; www.kaukauna

library.org

Menasha Public Library: June 5 to Aug. 12; registration begins May 30; www.menasha

library.org

Neenah Public Library: June 5 to Aug. 18; registration open; www.neenahlibrary.org

Tanya Misselt is the children's services supervisor for the Appleton Public Library.

Illustration

Caption: Misselt

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