

Summer Library Programs Underway Throughout Maryland

*‘Adventure Begins at Your Library’ Theme Encourages Learning,
Exploration, Discovery and More*

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BALTIMORE – The Maryland State Library Agency is pleased to announce that summer library programs are now underway at public libraries throughout the state. This year’s theme, *Adventure Begins at Your Library*, encourages children, teens and families to embark on a summer of learning, exploration and discovery about the world around them through reading, games, outdoor activities, special performances and much more.

“As schools let out for the summer, we encourage students across Maryland to participate in the terrific activities and learning opportunities our local libraries provide for them,” said Maryland State Librarian Irene M. Padilla. “I’m thrilled to see the variety of activities available this summer and applaud our dedicated librarians and staff members who run these programs every year.”

Summer library programs encourage reading and other enrichment opportunities during the summer months. Participation is simple and fun. Youth may choose the books they read, activities to explore, and programs or classes to attend then track their progress through game boards or logs, available free of charge at Maryland public libraries. Each county library system tailors the program to their customers, so youth interested in participating should inquire at their local library; many locations also provide an online reading system.

More than 96,000 youth participated in Maryland summer library programs in 2023 by reading and engaging in literacy, STEM or family activities. Summer library programs are a collaborative project between the local public libraries and the Maryland State Library Agency, with funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Maryland is a participating member of the national Collaborative Summer Library Program.

The Maryland State Fair donated family passes and bookmarks to all Maryland public libraries to incorporate into their summer programs this year. During a special Reading Ceremony in August at the Maryland State Fairgrounds, the 2024 Summer Reading representatives from each county library system will be acknowledged for their reading efforts during the summer. The State Fair also is hosting the award-winning Barnyard Bedtime Tales program again every Saturday during the Fair, from 7 to 8 p.m., during which children and adults are welcome to come read a bedtime story to the animals to help tuck them in for the night.

The Baltimore Orioles, the Maryland Science Center and the National Aquarium also have donated tickets as incentives to youth to fully participate in summer library programs throughout the state, providing youth the opportunity to enjoy sports, nature and STEM activities.

Marylanders are encouraged to learn more about all the fun and free programs coming up this summer by visiting local libraries in person or online.

About the Maryland State Library Agency

The Maryland State Library Agency (MSLA) is an independent agency providing strategic leadership and guidance to Maryland's public libraries. MSLA promotes the planning and implementation of library programs, supports staff and career development through education and training, and facilitates resource sharing among libraries. MSLA oversees the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled, Maryland's Public Libraries, the State Library Network, the Public Library Capital Grants Program, and the Maryland Deaf Culture Digital Library.

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