



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Public Library

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Library's Summer Reading Program Open to All Children and Teens *Prizes and Better Skills Await Children, Teens at Libraries During Summer*

SAN DIEGO – A variety of critters and beasts await children and teens who take part in the City of San Diego Public Library's 2006 free Summer Reading Program, which continues through Aug. 15. Summer is a great time to pick up a book and continue to improve reading skills, and this year's Summer Reading Program will focus on animals and fun.

"With so many students on vacation from school, reading books is an especially important activity during the summer," said City Library Director Anna Tatár. "All San Diego children and teens are invited to take part in the Summer Reading Program and discover all the great resources of the San Diego Public Library."

For children up to 12 years old, the theme of the program is "**Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales.**" The program's theme for teens in grades 7-12 is "**Creature Feature @ Your Library.**" Participants in the program will receive special prizes, including "Paws to Read" wristbands, plush dog and cat bookmarks, and free admission to the San Diego Zoo, Natural History Museum and the Aerospace Museum.

The Summer Reading Program, available at all City libraries, will also include many free special events such as puppet theater, music performances, storytelling, arts and crafts projects, science programs, and other fun activities.

The Library began the annual Summer Reading Program in 1924. The goals of the program are to keep children and teens reading, learning and improving their reading skills, and stretching their imaginations during the summer. Reading improves literacy and helps students do better in school. Last year, 23,000 children and teens enrolled in the program. The program is free for all and open to anyone 18 and younger.

For more details about the program, fun activities and about how to sign up, contact or visit your local library. More information is also available on the Library's Web site at <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/services/summerreading.shtml>.

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