2022 Summer Reading Toolkit for Schools and School Libraries
Summer Reading Toolkit

OCEANS OF POSSIBILITIES

Summer Reading at New York Libraries is a program of the Office of Cultural Education in the New York State Education Department and is funded through the Federal Library Services and Technology Act, with funds awarded to the New York State Library by the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services.
Summer Reading at New York Libraries: An Introduction

*Summer Reading at New York Libraries* is an annual program that brings children and families into local public libraries for reading and enrichment programs and fun learning activities. In 2021, 1.1 million New York state children of all ages participated in the State Library-sponsored and supported summer program.

The State Library coordinates the program and works with the 23 public library systems throughout the state providing a summer reading theme and slogan, promotional materials, access to a creative idea manual, and state-level support. Materials are created and provided through membership in the national Collaborative Summer Library Program or CSLP consortium.
Goals of Summer Reading

- Advance literacy and maintain reading skill levels by engaging children and teens in reading and enrichment activities during the summer months.
- Foster a love of reading and using the library through public library programs and services.
- Increase successful reading experiences through librarian-supported, self-selected, voluntary reading.
- Involve parents, caregivers, and all family members in the library summer reading experience.
- Improve children’s access to library materials and activities, which will encourage them to become lifelong library users.
- Increase the number of children and teens participating in public library summer reading programs.
- Increase collaboration between schools and school libraries and public libraries, to promote, facilitate and increase Summer Reading participation.

2022 Summer Reading

Events and Activities - Performances, craft programs, story times, STEAM activities and workshops, and author/illustrator visits are just some of the programs offered by public libraries during the summer months. Encourage students to check with their local libraries all summer long for suggested reading materials as well as special programs and activities geared towards a variety of interests and age levels. Libraries offer a wealth of onsite and virtual programs throughout the summer months. This year’s Summer Reading slogan is Oceans of Possibilities, and the theme is all about water and oceanography.
But libraries are free to structure their Summer Reading program around the interests of their local communities and will offer all kinds of interesting and fun programs for all ages!

**Encourage children, teens and families to visit their local library in person or online to find out how to sign up and register for the Summer Reading program!** Some libraries use online registration or a mobile app to have participants track their Summer Reading progress and activities, while others use the more traditional format of paper tracking logs or reading records. Participants can earn badges and be eligible for prizes and special recognition when they complete programs as part of Summer Reading. Be sure to encourage students to ask at their local library for details on how to sign up and participate in all of the great Summer programs and activities the library has to offer!

**Early Literacy** - Many public libraries offer a variety of onsite and virtual storytime activities to introduce the summer reading concept to young children. This helps to involve parents and caregivers in becoming more aware of the value of early literacy and of reading to and with very young children. Through the *Ready to Read at New York Libraries* program, libraries can take advantage of training opportunities for providing enhanced services and resources to parents and caregivers of young children in their library community. Public libraries reach out and connect with schools, preschools and childcare centers, doctors’ offices, and other organizations to reach the families with young children in their communities.

**Find Early Literacy resources and activities provided by the State Library at:**

- **DayByDayNY**: The Family Literacy Calendar has a monthly theme, songs and activities, and links to many different activities for children and families to explore.
- **One More Story**: The site has two new e-books each day, along with daily fun activities.

**Fun Museums in NYS** – Museums are a great way to learn and explore different areas of the state and investigate interesting topics during the regular school year AND during the summer. New York has a wide variety of wonderful museums located across the state. Check them out here on the [Family Literacy Calendar](#).

Many public libraries loan out free museum passes for family activities. Check with your local public library for full details and more information on checking out museum passes.

Visit your local public library for information on how to participate in “Summer Reading at New York Libraries.” [Find your library](#).
Summer Reading Websites, Resources, Information, and Materials

**Summer Reading Website** – The official *Summer Reading at New York Libraries* website offers lots of free reading activities, games, links, and suggested book lists for all ages.
- News about the Summer Reading Program is available under the “Summer Reading News” tab.
- Find online and e-resources for schools and libraries.

**NYSL Website** – This New York State Library web page contains information and resource links for librarians, educators, and other professionals on summer reading, summer reading research, and the *Summer Reading at New York Libraries* program.

**NOVELNY** - NOVELny is an online library of hundreds of magazines, newspapers, maps, charts, research and reference books that are available to every New Yorker, free of charge. Open access to this collection is available to everyone residing in New York State, or via a NY ID or library card.

**Performers and Programs** – The Performers and Programs statewide database is searchable and includes a listing of performers and the programs they offer for libraries, schools, and other organizations serving children and young adults. Access more information on the Performers resource and how to find programs for your organization.

The State Library coordinates a variety of informative “Lunch and Learn” sessions to help libraries and schools learn more about various resources and about Summer Reading partner organizations and how they can help support efforts to keep kids and teens engaged when school is not in session. See the link to recordings of previous sessions by going to [the Library Development webinar page](#).
Need some summer social media inspiration? Check out the CSLP Social Media Toolkit.

You will find #OceansofPossibilities, including plug and play posts, graphics, font suggestions, virtual meeting background, social media cover photos and more in one convenient spot.

And remember, the Toolkit is a living document, with more posts added all year round!

Promotional Materials

- You can find a series of promotional and educational flyers on the Library Development Summer Reading website. Do you need Summer Reading information in other languages? Find translations of “10 Easy Ways to Get Children to Read This Summer” and “Easy Ways to Grow a Great Reader” into nine languages including Chinese and Spanish.
General Summer Reading Resources

**The Importance of Summer Reading: Public Library Summer Reading Programs and Learning**, a research brief to share with parents, administrators, and teachers.

Find **Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) information** including the online manual, tutorials, and inclusion resources.

Find **a list of ocean and water-related activities and resources** for Oceans of Possibilities.

Find an **updated Personal History Initiative page with many creative ideas and projects to help support 2022 summer programming**.

**Summer Meals Program**

When school is out, access to healthy foods can be missing for many children. An increasing number of partners in New York State, including libraries, are working together to ensure kids have access to healthy food year-round. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is a federally funded program that enables qualified organizations – including public libraries – to serve free meals to kids and teens in low-income or eligible areas. Schools can work together with public libraries and other community organizations to ensure that kids and teens and their families know where to find nutritious snacks and meals during the summer months.

There are a variety of ways your school or organization can be involved:

- Providing information about Summer Meal locations and benefits
- Offering space to sponsors serving meals or snacks
- Serving snacks or meals to enrich your own programming and bring more kids into the library or school setting
- Providing enrichment or learning activities or programs at Summer Meal distribution sites like schools or community spaces. Consider working with your local public library to provide Summer Reading “grab and go” kits or activities at these sites!

**More information about the Summer Meals program can be found here.**

Access **Summer Meals outreach materials** including flyers, web graphics, and social media messages.
Learn more about other Summer Reading Partners
Many organizations coordinate with schools and libraries each year on Summer Reading programs and activities. [Find out more about these Summer Reading partners and what they have to offer.](#)

Summer Reading Resources for Younger Readers with Print Disabilities
For information on braille and audio books and services to students with print disabilities, visit the website of the [New York State Talking Book and Braille Library (TBBL)](#). Discover how your school or library can access TBBL materials as you plan for your upcoming Summer Reading programs, activities, and events.

Great Resources for Children
The following resource lists were created by the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) for use in support of the 2022 Summer Reading Program at public libraries.

Our Blue Planet
- [NatGeo Kids Ocean factbook](#)
- [Fun facts about the oceans](#)
- [Our blue planet video](#)
- [Ocean activities for kids](#)

Explore New Depths
- [Homemade ocean activities](#)
- [Virtual Ocean aquariums from across the country](#)
- [Fine motor activities for kids](#)
An Ocean of Wonders

- NatGeo Kids coral reef facts
- Boat building crafts
- Marine life

Seven Seas Infinite Stories

- Ocean songs for kids
- Ocean stories for kids
- DIY popup ocean stories

Discover Treasures

- Sunken ships and treasure activities
- Facts about ocean life
- PBS exploring the ocean

Uncharted

- Information on climate change and the ocean
- Ocean density activity
- Blue whale facts
Great Resources for Teens
The following resource lists were created by the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) for use in support of the 2022 Summer Reading Program at public libraries.

Our Blue Planet

- [The BBC Blue Planet collection](#)
- How to save the oceans
- [50 ocean fun facts](#)

Explore New Depths

- [The Golden Age of Piracy](#)
- Unanswered questions about the ocean
- [Beach craft ideas](#)

An Ocean of Wonders

- Fun Sea Shanties
- How deep is the ocean?
- Underwater wonders
Discover Treasures
- New coral reef discovered
- Undiscovered shipwrecks
- The Ocean: The Last Frontier webinar

Uncharted
- Ocean stories and mysteries
- Water Mythology
- The Bermuda triangle
New York State Public Library Systems

This map shows the 23 public library systems serving all regions of New York State. Each system has a dedicated Youth Services expert who works with their regional public libraries on Summer Reading partnerships.

**Public Library Systems**

- **Brooklyn** (Kings County)
- **Buffalo-Erie**
- **Chautauqua-Cattaraugus**
- **Clinton-Essex-Franklin**
- **Finger Lakes** (Cayuga, Cortland, Seneca, Tioga, Tompkins counties)
- **Four County** (Broome, Chenango, Delaware, Otsego counties)
- **Mid-Hudson** (Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Putnam, Ulster [part] counties)
- **Mid-York** (Herkimer, Madison, Oneida counties)
- **Mohawk Valley** (Fulton, Montgomery, Schenectady, Schoharie counties)
- **Monroe**
- **Nassau**
- **New York** (Bronx, New York, Richmond counties)
- **Nioga** (Genesee, Niagara, Orleans counties)
- **North Country** (Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego, St. Lawrence counties)
- **Onondaga**
- **OWWL** (Livingston, Ontario, Wayne, Wyoming counties)
- **Queens**
- **Ramapo Catskill** (Orange, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster [part] counties)
- **Southern Adirondack** (Hamilton, Saratoga, Warren, Washington counties)
- **Southern Tier** (Allegany, Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben, Yates counties)
- **Suffolk**
- **Upper Hudson** (Albany, Rensselaer counties)
- **Westchester**

### NEXT STEPS

**Are you wondering how to best support your students to keep them engaged and learning all Summer long?**

School librarians should reach out to the School Library System Director in their region, to see what partnerships and projects are already in place for making a Summer Reading connection with the public libraries in their district. If you are unsure how to get in touch with the appropriate staff in your local public library, start by reaching out to the system Youth Services Consultant in your geographic region of New York state. Youth Services Consultants in the 23 public library systems work closely with their member libraries each year, to plan and offer fun and vibrant Summer Reading programs for all students. Public libraries are eager to work with local schools and school libraries to provide Summer Learning opportunities for children and teens all across the state.

The complete roster of **Youth Services contacts in New York State** can be found on the [State Library's website](#).

We hope this toolkit is helpful and informative and inspires schools, libraries, and community organizations to work together to partner and collaborate on Summer Reading. We are all working towards the same goal of keeping students actively engaged over the summer months, to help them continue on their journey of lifelong learning.

**Questions about Summer Reading at New York Libraries?**
Contact Sharon Phillips, Youth Services Program Manager, New York State Library, at [Sharon.Phillips@nysed.gov](mailto:Sharon.Phillips@nysed.gov) or [nyslyouth@nysed.gov](mailto:nyslyouth@nysed.gov)

---

Summer Reading at New York Libraries is a program of the Office of Cultural Education in the New York State Education Department and is funded through the Federal Library Services and Technology Act, with funds awarded to the New York State Library by the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services.