

# 2023 Summer Reading Toolkit for Schools and School Libraries



New York State  
**Library**



Summer Reading Toolkit

# ALL TOGETHER NOW

*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 2022, 1.4 million New York state children of all ages participated in this State Library-sponsored and supported summer program.

The State Library coordinates the program and works closely with the 23 public library systems throughout the state providing state-level support, a summer reading theme and slogan, promotional materials, and access to a creative online program and idea manual. Materials for libraries are created and provided through membership in the national [Collaborative Summer Library Program](#) (or CSLP) consortium.

Schools and school libraries are strongly encouraged to reach out and work with the public libraries in their localities to promote Summer Reading participation to all students.



## 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.

## 2023 Summer Reading



*Activities for ALL at the local public library*

**Summer Events and Activities** - Performances, craft programs, story times, STEAM and other activities and workshops, events by and for teens, and author visits are just some examples of programs offered by public libraries during the summer months. **How can schools help to promote Summer Reading?** Encourage students to sign up early to find out about exciting 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 and many are listed on local library websites. This year's Summer Reading slogan is **All Together Now**, and the theme is all about kindness, friendship, diversity and inclusion. Public 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! The best way to stay informed is for students to get a local library borrower card and sign up early to participate in Summer Reading.

**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 sign up for and track their 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! **Many public libraries will do an in-person or virtual school visit in the spring to share information with students about Summer Reading or even get them signed up on the spot. Just reach out to your local public library to ask about a visit!**

**How to get younger kids involved in Summer Reading** - Many public libraries offer a variety of 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 and schools can take advantage of training opportunities for providing enhanced services and resources to parents and caregivers of young children in their community. Public libraries will work with schools, preschools and childcare centers, doctors' offices, and other organizations to reach families with young children to make sure they know about Summer Reading activities.

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

[DayByDayNY](https://daybydayny.org/) (https://daybydayny.org/): 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](https://daybydayny.org/one-more-story/) (https://daybydayny.org/one-more-story/): The site has two new e-books each day, along with daily fun activities.

**Cultural Institutions in NYS** – Museums are a great way to 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 located across the state. Check them out on



the [Family Literacy Calendar](https://daybydayny.org/explore-ny/) (https://daybydayny.org/explore-ny/) and at the [FindNYCulture](https://findnyculture.org/) site (https://findnyculture.org/).

**Did you know that many public libraries loan out FREE museum passes for families?** Check with your local public library for full details on what passes are available and for more information on how to check out museum passes.

**Visit** your local public library for information on how to participate in “Summer Reading at New York Libraries.” Find library locations and contact information on the [Find Your Public Library website](https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/libs/publibs/) (https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/libs/publibs/).



**Helpful Summer Reading Websites, Resources, Information, and Materials**



**Keep Reading and Learning all Summer**  
**Students: learn new skills by visiting the library often**  
**and stay engaged this summer.**

## A few ideas:

1. If you don't already have a library card at your local public library, be sure to get one before summer. Many libraries are now fine free and don't charge for overdue books if they are returned within a reasonable time!
2. Share with friends and classmates about what you plan to read over the summer.
3. Share on social media the books you'll be reading this summer.
4. Does your local public library have online registration for Summer Reading? Find out how to sign up NOW to participate in Summer Reading.
5. Start your own book club either in person or online.
6. Ask your school librarian about ideas for improving the community, the environment, and the world as part of the Summer Reading theme and slogan of "All Together Now."
7. Check with your local public library to find out more about planned Summer Reading events and activities for students. Most libraries have an events calendar on their site or have a newsletter you can subscribe to for notification of new events.
8. Are you interested in a particular Summer program or activity but don't see it listed at your local library? Ask a library staff member if you can arrange for and offer it yourself!
9. Many libraries have teen volunteer or paid opportunities available during the summer. These opportunities can be a great addition to a college application or a resume and provide valuable learning experiences.



[Summer Reading Website](https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/index.html) (<https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/index.html>) – The New York State Library has recently updated its Youth Services website, including the Summer Reading webpage. The new site includes the same information as the old one, but has been designed to be more accessible and easier to use. 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 of the Develop Programming section of the Summer Reading website.
- Find online and e-resources for schools and libraries on the [Youth Services website](https://nysllibrary.libguides.com/youthservices) (<https://nysllibrary.libguides.com/youthservices>).

[NYSL Website](https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/) (<https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/>) – 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](https://novelnewyork.org/) (<https://novelnewyork.org/>) - 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](https://www.performersandprograms.com/) (https://www.performersandprograms.com/) – The Performers and Programs statewide database is searchable in many different categories and includes a listing of performers and the programs they offer for libraries, schools, and other organizations serving children and young adults. For more information on the Performers resource and how to find programs for your organization, please check out this [informational flyer](https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/PPDflyer.pdf) on the NYS Library Summer Reading website. (https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/PPDflyer.pdf).

The State Library coordinates a variety of informative “Lunch and Learn” sessions to help schools and libraries 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. Previous webinars such as “How to Make the Most of Virtual School Visits” or “The Summer Reading Buddies Program” can be used to help develop Summer Reading interest and programs. See the link to all the recordings of previous sessions by going to the [Library Development webinar page](https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/webinars/index2.html#YS) (https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/webinars/index2.html#YS).

## **CSLP Social Media Toolkit for Public Library Marketing 2023 “All Together Now”**



Need some summer social media inspiration? Check out the [CSLP Social Media Toolkit](https://bit.ly/CSLP_Toolkit23) (https://bit.ly/CSLP\_Toolkit23).

You will find #AllTogetherNow, 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 NYS Library's [Promote Your Summer Reading website](https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/promoteyoursrp.htm) (<https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/promoteyoursrp.htm>). 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

### “Importance of Summer Reading”

A research brief to share with parents, administrators, and teachers.

[The Importance of Summer Reading: Public Library Summer Reading Programs and Learning brief](https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/srbrief.pdf) (<https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/srbrief.pdf>).

Find Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) information including the online manual, tutorials, and inclusion resources on the [Collaborative Summer Library program \(CSLP\) homepage](https://www.csllpreads.org/) (<https://www.csllpreads.org/>).

Find an updated Personal History Initiative page with many creative ideas and projects to help support 2023 summer programming at [Personal History Initiative homepage](https://www.nyspersonalhistory.com/) (<https://www.nyspersonalhistory.com/>).

### Summer Meals Program

When school is out, access to healthy foods can be missing for many children but libraries can play a role in closing this gap by participating in the Summer Meals program. An increasing number of organizations 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 can be involved:

- Providing information about Summer Meal locations including local libraries
- Offering space to sponsors serving meals or snacks
- Serving snacks or meals to enrich programming and to bring more kids into the school or library setting

- Providing learning activities or programs at Summer Meal distribution sites like schools. Try reaching out to your local public library to ask them to provide “grab and go” kits or other Summer Reading activities at these sites!

More information about the Summer Meals program can be found on the Summer Reading website (<https://nysllibrary.libguides.com/c.php?g=1284706&p=9432928/>).

**Do you need Summer Reading Resources for Younger Readers who may have a print disability?** For information on FREE braille and audio books and services to students with print disabilities, visit the website of the [New York State Talking Book and Braille Library \(TBBL\)](https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/tbbl/) (<https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/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 2023 Summer Reading Program at public libraries.



### Friendship and Kindness

- [The Science of Kindness Video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O9UByLyOjBM) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O9UByLyOjBM>)
- [Friendship Toolkit](https://cola.unh.edu/sites/default/files/media/2022/03/friendship-toolkit-digital-pdf.pdf) (<https://cola.unh.edu/sites/default/files/media/2022/03/friendship-toolkit-digital-pdf.pdf>)
- [The 10 Top Friendship Games and Activities](https://www.healthline.com/health/parenting/friendship-activities#Preschool-Friendship-Activities) (<https://www.healthline.com/health/parenting/friendship-activities#Preschool-Friendship-Activities>)

### Diversity and Inclusion

- [Diversity and Inclusion Printable Activities](https://www.weareteachers.com/diversity-and-inclusion-activities/) (<https://www.weareteachers.com/diversity-and-inclusion-activities/>)
- [11 Ways to Celebrate Cultural Diversity in the Classroom teaching strategies](https://www.continentalpress.com/blog/cultural-diversity-in-the-classroom/) (<https://www.continentalpress.com/blog/cultural-diversity-in-the-classroom/>)

- [Anti-discrimination story for elementary school age children](https://freekidsbooks.org/subject/diversity-and-differences/)  
(<https://freekidsbooks.org/subject/diversity-and-differences/>)

## 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.

### Friendship and Kindness

- [The Power of Kindness Video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8afO6jkod_4)  
([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8afO6jkod\\_4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8afO6jkod_4))
- [13 Awesome Kindness Projects For Middle & High School](https://letscultivategreatness.com/13-awesome-kindness-projects-for-middle-high-school/) (<https://letscultivategreatness.com/13-awesome-kindness-projects-for-middle-high-school/>)
- [15 Activities On Friendship For Middle School Learners](https://www.teachingexpertise.com/classroom-ideas/activities-on-friendship-for-middle-school/)  
(<https://www.teachingexpertise.com/classroom-ideas/activities-on-friendship-for-middle-school/>)

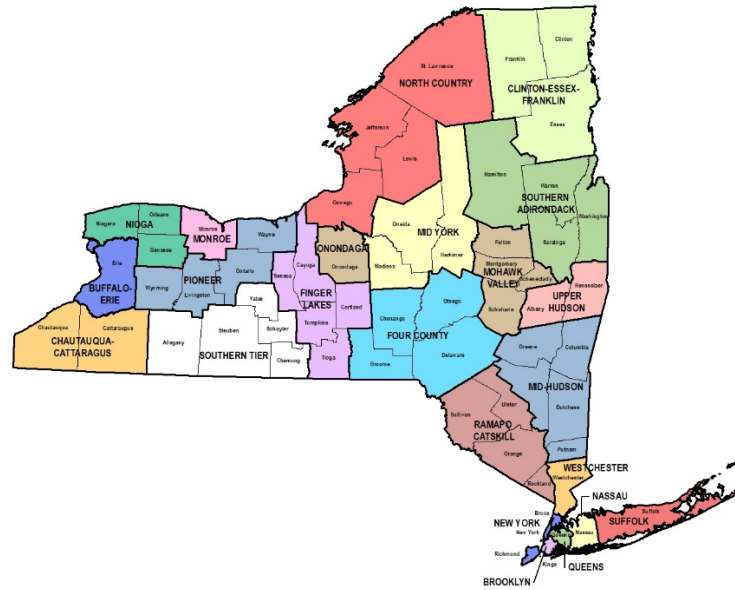


### Diversity and Inclusion

- [Diversity Activities for Youth and Adults](https://extension.psu.edu/more-diversity-activities-for-youth-and-adults)  
(<https://extension.psu.edu/more-diversity-activities-for-youth-and-adults>)
- [7 Easy Activities That Encourage Students to Open Up About Identity and Privilege](https://sapro.moderncampus.com/blog/7-easy-activities-that-encourage-students-to-open-up-about-identity-and-privilege) (<https://sapro.moderncampus.com/blog/7-easy-activities-that-encourage-students-to-open-up-about-identity-and-privilege>)
- [12 Diverse Books for High School Teens](https://imaginationsoup.net/diverse-books-high-school-teens/) (<https://imaginationsoup.net/diverse-books-high-school-teens/>)



## New York State Public Library Systems



This map shows the 23 public library systems serving all regions of New York State.

Each one has a dedicated Youth Services expert working with libraries on developing Summer Reading partnerships. Reach out to the contact in your region to connect!

### 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 may already be in place for making Summer Reading connections with the public libraries in their district. If you are unsure how to get in touch with appropriate staff in your local public library to collaborate on Summer Reading, 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 students all across the state.

The complete roster of **Youth Services contacts in New York State** can be found on the [State Library's Youth Services Consultants list](https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/youthsvs/roster.htm) (<https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/youthsvs/roster.htm>).

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 their journey of lifelong learning.

#### ***Do you have questions about Summer Reading at New York Libraries?***

Reach out to 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)

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