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Contact

[Lilly Talbert](#), Communications & Administrative Coordinator

[Vermont Department of Libraries](#) | 802-249-4055

Vermont Public Libraries Launch Summer Reading Programs and Bolster Family Literacy Support

(Barre, Vermont) — From the moment children are born, the foundations of literacy are built through the songs parents sing, the board books babies explore, and the stories families share. Vermont's public libraries have long been champions of early childhood literacy, offering a wealth of children's literature and programming supporting parents and caregivers in fostering a love of reading.

As summer has arrived, Vermont's public libraries are launching their annual Summer Reading Programs, centered around the theme "Adventure Begins at Your Library!" These programs are essential in helping students maintain their reading skills over the summer break, preventing the "summer slide." Research consistently shows that children who participate in summer reading programs return to school with stronger reading skills compared to those who do not.

Summer Reading Programs offer a fun and engaging way for children to develop a lifelong love of reading. Families are encouraged to visit their local libraries regularly, to check out a fresh stack of books and to participate in library-hosted events and programs, featuring science, music, storytelling, arts, crafts, StoryWalks®, and outdoor exploration. Public libraries also host programs for our youngest Vermonters, including rhyming and singing sessions for babies. These early literacy programs are designed to instill a love of reading and learning from an early age, setting children up for future success in school. The Vermont Department of Libraries supports these Summer Reading Programs through non-competitive grants of \$300 to each library through the estate of the Elva S. Smith Trust in support of youth library activities.

This year's summer reading theme aligns perfectly with another popular service provided by the Department of Libraries: the State Parks and Historic Sites Pass Program. Each of Vermont's 187 public libraries receives passes that allow for free day admission to state parks and historic sites for a carload of up to eight people. This program, a collaboration between the Vermont Department of Libraries, the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, offers Vermonters the chance to explore and appreciate their state's natural beauty and rich history.

Many public libraries also serve as summer meal sites, providing free meals for their communities through state and federal programs and by partnering with community organizations.

Visit your local library to learn about the exciting summer reading programs and activities planned for this year. While you're there, don't forget to check out a park or historic site pass and pick up a great book!

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The Vermont Department of Libraries is housed within the Vermont Agency of Administration and supports Vermont libraries as they work to ensure access to quality information for their patrons. To learn more, visit libraries.vermont.gov.