Durham County Library Gears up for Summer Reading 2015

Registration is open for children, teens and adults

Program: Durham County Library Summer Reading Kickoff at Northgate Mall
Day/Date: Saturday, June 13
Time: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Location: Northgate Mall, 1058 W. Club Blvd., Durham, NC 27701
Cost: Free and open to the public

DURHAM - Durham County Library will celebrate the start of Summer Reading 2015 with a kickoff on Saturday, June 13 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Northgate Mall, 1058 W. Club Blvd. The kickoff will feature dozens of performers and activities, and will take place both indoors and on the outdoor plaza between entrances 2 and 4. It is free and open to the public.

“We are so excited about this year’s Summer Reading theme, ‘Every Hero Has a Story,’” said Tammy Baggett, Library Director. “We have a full summer of programs planned for our community. To make sure that we have plenty of staff on hand to help customers at the kickoff festivities on June 13th, all Durham County Library locations will be closed until 2 p.m. that day.”

Participants of all ages will find a wide range of activities available during the celebration. Performers and activities include Cirque de Vol – The Superhero Circus, Almost Amazing Al, Paint Savvy, North Carolina Zoo, Museum of Natural Sciences, Durham Arts Council, Fairy Hair Flair, DJ Pitty Pat, Flow Circus, Happymess, storytelling, face painting, balloon art, crafts, bounce houses, a video game truck and more.

“In addition to all of the activities at the kickoff, we are thrilled about several new offerings for this year’s Summer Reading,” said Lynne Barnette, Southwest Regional Library manager and Summer Reading committee chair. “After a positive experience with the Teen Fine Read-Down last year, we are expanding the program and allowing everyone to read-down their fines throughout Summer Reading. Also, thanks to a grant from the Friends of the Durham Library, four Durham schools whose students participate in Summer Reading will have a chance to win a 3D printer and training.” More information on each of these initiatives can be found online at durhamcountylibrary.org/summerreading. (shortened url: dcl.li/sr15)

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According to the State Library of North Carolina, the number of books read during the summer is consistently related to academic gains. Children in every income group who read six or more books over the summer gained more in reading achievement than children who did not. The use of the public library during the summer is more predictive of vocabulary gains than attending summer school, according to the study.

While the start is still weeks away, Summer Reading online registration for children, teens and adults is now open. The library is encouraging everyone to avoid the “long digital lines” by signing up for a summer of reading before the official start of the season. An original video, featuring “Bookman” and “Reader Girl” will help to get visitors to the library’s Summer Reading page ready to become reading superheroes.

After the kickoff children, teens and adults can begin tracking their reading online to reduce fines and earn points towards both personal and school prizes. Each minute read is worth one Summer Reading point, and points can be earned for participating in activities like attending programs and writing book reviews. Up to 1000 points can be redeemed at any time between June 13 and August 8 for a variety of prizes. A minimum of 600 points enters the reader into a drawing for this year’s grand prizes, which include: LEGO Duplo, Kindle Fire Kids Edition, Wii U and an iPod with an iTunes Gift Card for children; a PlayStation 4 with games and gift cards for teens; and an iPad Mini and DPAC gift certificate for adults.

This year’s Midpoint Rally will be held from 5 - 8 p.m. on Saturday, July 11 at Durham Central Park, 501 Foster St., and will feature performers, bands, food trucks and a Dress-Your-Dog-as-a-Superhero Parade. Visit the website or check out Summer Reading publications available at each location for details.

The Summer Reading Finale will be held at the Museum of Life and Science from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, August 8. Everyone is invited to celebrate Summer Reading accomplishments with family and friends and enjoy performers, displays, puppet shows, magic, music and more.

More information about Summer Reading is available at durhamcountylibrary.org/summerreading. Registration is also available in person at any library location. Summer Reading, the library’s most popular program, is sponsored by Durham County, the Friends of the Durham Library, Durham Library Foundation, Northgate Mall, Duke Energy, Durham Arts Council, Durham Public Schools, Durham Central Park, The Regulator Bookshop, The Herald-Sun, Animal Protection Society, Coca-Cola and Univision.

Durham County Library encourages Discovery, connects the Community and leads in Literacy. As a department of Durham County Government, the library furthers Goal 1 of the county’s Strategic Plan by enhancing cultural, educational and creative opportunities. For more information about the library, visit durhamcountylibrary.org.

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