



Oklahoma Department of Libraries
200 NE 18 Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-3298
(405) 521-2502 or Statewide (800) 522-8116

May 17, 2011

Contact: Adrienne Butler
Youth Services Consultant
(405) 522-3323
abutler@oltn.odl.state.ok.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oklahoma Kids and Teens Invited to Tour the World @ Their Library

Summertime Reading is as Critical as School-Year Reading

The Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL) invites all children and teens to participate in Oklahoma's statewide summer reading program. "*One World, Many Stories!*" encourages children to visit their libraries and discover the world's many amazing places and its people. Area teens are also invited to visit the library under their program slogan, "*You Are Here!*"

"Television, computer games, and other activities present so many distractions that it's easy for youngsters to forget about the joys and rewards of reading," says Adrienne Butler, ODL Youth Services Consultant. She said libraries play a critical role in maintaining reading levels over the summer, which research shows is as important as the structured reading curriculum during the academic year. "Children who participate in library summer reading programs return to school in the fall ready to learn at grade level" Butler added. According to educational research, if children select their own reading materials, this positive experience leads to more time spent reading and improved reading ability. But with so many choices out there, how does a child know where to start? According to Butler, Oklahoma librarians are trained to direct kids to books and other reading materials that best suit their personality, interests, and imagination. "As parents structure their kids' summertime activities, they should remember to put reading into the mix. Once children discover the fun of reading for pleasure, they can't be stopped," said Butler.

(More)

(Kids and Teens Add 2 2 2)

“The public library is important to the reading achievement of many children, particularly those children who lack other reading resources” says Susan McVey, ODL Director...”and public libraries are helping to close the ‘book gap’ by providing children of all backgrounds access to high-quality reading materials and rich language experiences” she adds. School achievement research confirms there is a positive relationship between the amounts of time a child spends reading and an improved reading level in school.

“Summertime at public libraries also opens up a whole new social world for kids and, while they’re there, we get them to try a book or two” McVey added.

Kids want to know what’s good to read and Oklahoma librarians can steer them to old books, new books, books that children and teens love now and will love in the future. No matter how you look at it, books are a treasure. They take us away from daily concerns; introduce us to other cultures and fly us to countries we may never see in person. They show us the many facets of wonder – in our natural parks, in science, and in humankind’s capacity for courage and kindness. They introduce us to friends we will have for life. Reading (or listening to someone else read) constitutes our introduction to a world of wonderful characters and people. Oklahoma’s Summer Reading Programs, created especially for kids by youth services librarians, include games, family fun activities, balloon art, puppet shows, and magic shows for the K-5 group to art contests, pizza parties and gaming parties for the tweens and teens. In promoting reading as a leisure activity, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries invites children and teens to come to the public libraries, make friends, have fun – and read.

No matter what library you visit in Oklahoma you will be in “*One World with Many Stories!*” This year’s summer reading programs starts June 5th and ends on July 24th. Registration dates will vary with your local community. For more information, visit or call your local library.

ODL will have a summer reading website at www.odl.state.ok.us/summer/

In conjunction with the statewide program, the *Oklahoman’s Newspapers In Education* division will conduct a Summer Reading Contest for children ages 5-12. The contest runs each Sunday from June 5-July 24 and the deadline for contest entries is July 29th. You can view the Summer Reading Contest questions and winners on the *Newspapers in Education* website at www.nie.newsok.com.

(More)

(Kids and Teens Add 3 3 3)

Funding for the 2011 Oklahoma Statewide Summer Reading Programs, “*One World, Many Stories*” and “*You Are Here*” was made possible with Federal Library Services and Technology Act funds, awarded to the Oklahoma Department of Libraries by the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services, and SONIC America’s Drive-In.

###

The Oklahoma Department of Libraries is part of a group of 49 states, plus the District of Columbia and military bases worldwide, which make up the national Collaborative Summer Library Program (CLSP) for 2011.

The Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) is a grassroots consortium of states working together to provide high-quality summer reading program materials for children at the lowest cost possible for their public libraries.

By combining resources and working with a exclusive contracted vendor to produce materials designed for CSLP members, public libraries in participating states or systems can purchase posters, reading logs, bookmarks, certificates and a variety of reading incentives at significant savings.

The participating systems and states develop a unified and high-quality promotional and programming product. Participants have access to the same artwork, incentives and publicity, in addition to an extensive manual of programming and promotional ideas.

CSLP began in 1987 when ten Minnesota regional library systems developed a summer library program for children, choosing a theme, creating artwork and selecting incentives that public libraries in the regions could purchase and use. State libraries and systems continue to join and CSLP continues to evolve, but its guiding principle remains the same, librarians sharing ideas, expertise and costs to produce a high-quality summer reading program for children.