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Triple Digits Mean Triple the Summer Fun at the Glendale Public Libraries

Glendale, Ariz. — It's triple digits out and finding quality activities to pass the time isn't always easy. Stay cool, entertained, and mentally sharp by participating in summer reading at the Glendale Public Library. From June 1 through August 1, patrons of all ages are invited to read and win prizes by joining not one, but two reading incentive programs hosted by the library. Arts and crafts, live music, book discussions and story times are a few of the types of free events found on the library's summer calendar.

Based on the Glendale Public Library's current programming theme of being active, exploring and just being you, the "Express Yourself"-themed summer reading program gives patrons a chance to read for prizes. Patrons join by picking up a reading log at any of the Glendale libraries.

"Coming to the library to claim your summer reading goodies never gets old!" said administrative librarian Merideth Jenson-Benjamin. "Keeping track of reading progress by time, pages or books earns kids a couple of visits to the prize treasure box. Teens, same guidelines as the kids but take home a backpack button and a PopSocket. And don't forget the grownups! By reading four books they win earbuds." All ages receive a coupon for a yummy Sonic treat and a book.

Another option is "Build a Better World" with Maricopa County Reads, an online program sponsored by the Maricopa County Library District. Participants log reading minutes and earn a Chipotle meal and a free book. This year Arizona State Parks has donated free park passes as a children's incentive. To sign up for Maricopa County Reads, visit www.maricopareads.org, log in, select Glendale as your home library, and get started.

In addition to the reading programs, each library will feature a variety of events to fit every age and personality type. "This summer we will have a family stargazing night, a balloon storytelling program, performances from the Arizona Broadway Theatre, an origami workshop, even a drum circle where kids can try out Native American hoop drums and other percussive instruments," said Jenson-Benjamin.

"Summer is a great time to really get to know what our libraries have to offer. Not only can you check out books, you can also download music, a movie or a book with one of our online resources, attend a hands-on program and even check out a Culture Pass for two free tickets to one of our local museums," said Jenson-Benjamin. "The best part is there is no charge to participate in library programs and anyone in Maricopa County can apply for a free library card."

For more information about the summer reading programs and other summer events, stop by the Glendale Main Library, 5959 W. Brown St., the Foothills Branch, 19055 N. 57th Ave., or the Velma Teague Branch, 7010 N. 58th Ave. You can also check out the monthly calendar on the library website, www.glendaleaz.com/library.

Written by: Paula Stroup, Library Assistant Senior

Community Services Department

Glendale Public Library is the vital link to our rapidly changing world. Our mission is to empower our community by providing free and equitable access to information, technology, cultural, educational and life enhancing materials and services.

