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Lee County Library System celebrates successful Summer Reading Program

Fort Myers, FL, Aug. 20, 2024 – Lee County Library System’s 2024 Summer Reading Program put thousands of books into the hands of children and teens and saw outstanding participation by all age groups.

The annual program serves to foster the love of reading and help prevent summer learning loss by students on school break. In support of the goal, the library system distributed more than 13,000 free books to children and teens throughout Lee County.

This year’s national Summer Reading Program theme, called “Adventure Begins in Your Library,” encouraged everyone to get out and be active in their local library branches and community. A total of 3,709 participants joined the all-ages reading challenge and logged more than 17,000 books and 827,270 minutes read. Additionally, the Adventure Bucket List activity engaged more than 8,000 people in fun tasks and reading.

The library also hosted an array of exciting programs in June and July featuring live music, animals, science experiments, art and magic. The branches threw 13 kickoff parties, drawing in 3,485 people to celebrate the start of the reading program. Fun foam parties, tasty treats and face painting were among some of the kickoff activities offered along with encouraging sign-ups for the summer event. Altogether, the Lee County Library System presented 466 engaging programs with about 15,000 people attending. Library staff also coordinated 105 outreach visits, reaching an additional 11,360 people at camps, community centers, parks and more.

“The library’s summer reading program allows us to share the joy of reading and learning while also keeping minds active and helping our school-age participants avoid summer learning loss while on

summer break,” Library Director Mindi Simon said. “Our libraries are a great place for families and residents to come together. We make reading fun in order to have a positive impact on everyone who wants to participate.”

This year also marked the return of the Teen Summer of Service program which offered teens ages 12 to 18 years the chance to earn service hours during a multi-week virtual learning series featuring local nonprofit agencies helping the community. Forty-three teens earned more than 600 service hours while completing projects to support the participating organizations in achieving their missions.

Library programs take place all year long and are always free and open to the public. The Lee County Library System has 13 branches to serve Lee County residents. For information about library locations, online access to e-books and streaming content, program information and more, visit www.leelibrary.net or call 239-479-4636.

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