

IT'S SUMMER READING TIME @ Seminole County Public Library

by Sara White

Back and better than ever is the Seminole County Public Library's 2021 Summer Reading Program. Last summer the program was an entirely online format, using virtual badges with a system of points and leveling up. This year, we are pleased to bring you the best of both worlds: a "hybrid" program with both tangible and online components.

Officially starting at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 27, the library will host its interactive Summer Reading Kickoff Party on Zoom. The hosts will be the familiar children's librarians from all five library branches. That same day, Summer Reading registration will open online. Families can sign up and log reading for multiple children with the same account login.

This summer's theme is "Tails and Tales," celebrating all our furry, feathered, and scaly animal friends. Versions of the program are customized for ages 4 and under, ages 5 to 12, teens, and adults.

All four programs invite participants to log reading, earn points, and "level up." Once you earn 1,000 points, you'll receive a digital certificate of completion that you can print or share. For families visiting the Library in-person, there will be a brand-new lanyard challenge for kids and a sticker challenge for little ones. Kids will receive a lanyard, complete a different reading challenge each week, and earn mini-buttons to add to their lanyard. For little ones, there is a version using animal stickers to track progress.

After registering, youngsters up to age 18 can visit any Library branch to pick out and keep a brand-new book from the special cart – just for signing up.

The Teen and Adult Summer Reading Programs will have a greater emphasis on virtual components, but for each of the four age groups, the Library will hold surprise raffles for prizes throughout the summer. You must be registered and reading to win.



To join in the fun, just visit the website SeminoleLibrary.ReadSquared.com, click "Register" in the upper right-hand corner, and follow the prompts. You can also access your Summer Reading account by downloading the READSquared app and logging your reading on the go. SCPL librarians are always happy to answer Summer Reading questions or help families register.

Also be sure to visit the Events Calendar on our main Library website SeminoleLibrary.org to register for any of our Zoom programs and learn about our upcoming outdoor, in-person family programs.

Happy reading!



SARA WHITE is the youth services senior librarian at the Seminole County Public Library and is a member of the Florida Library Association.

Kids House and Sheriff's Office Join Forces for Child Abuse Prevention Month

In April, Kids House of Seminole Wayne Densch Children's Advocacy Center and the Seminole County Sheriff's Office teamed up to kick off National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Child abuse is the leading cause of death in children under the age of four. This statistic is unacceptable and is why every April these organizations bring awareness to child abuse prevention. National Child Abuse Prevention Month is designed to recognize the importance of communities working together to help families thrive and prevent child abuse.

On April 6, the organizations held a virtual Light The Way for Child Abuse Prevention Month event that recognized the importance of our community working together to prevent child abuse and to help kids and their families thrive. Juliette Kong, CEO of Kids House, and Sheriff Dennis Lemma discussed how the organizations partner to combat child abuse in our community.

To learn more, visit KidsHouse.org or follow Kids House of Seminole on social media.



Juliette Kong, Kids House CEO

Success in Bloom at Goldsboro

Congratulations to Mary Lynn Hess, the bioscience and STEM resource teacher at Goldsboro Elementary School, who recently won a National Excellence in Teaching about Agriculture Award from the National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization.



Mary Lynn was instrumental in developing Goldsboro's 750-square-foot learning garden, in which she cultivates lessons about life, as kids learn to nurture a variety of plants, fruits, and veggies. The lush, outdoor space even includes an enabling garden for students with disabilities.

Lake Mary Life profiled Mary Lynn and the school's garden back in 2016, and the panel of judges reviewed that article when choosing her for this prestigious honor. Way to go, Mary Lynn!

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