

History of the Ohio Summer Reading Program

Since 1978, the State Library of Ohio has coordinated a summer reading program. 157 master packets of materials were sent to libraries and regional systems in **1978**. The theme that year was **"Millions of Cats"**, chosen to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the childhood classic written by Wanda Gag.

"Passport to Adventure" was the **1979** theme, chosen to coordinate with the UNICEF-sponsored International Year of the Child.

In **1980**, the State Library partnered with Akron Summit County Public Library for the theme, **"Summer Reading Program Olympics"**. Despite the boycott of the 1980 Olympic Games in Russia, Ohio used the program. The following three years' themes were:

- 1981 – "Mythical, Magical, Mystical, Monsters"**
- 1982 – "Reading, Riding, Rodeo"**
- 1983 – "QE's Quest"**

In **1984** we continued to work with Akron Summit County Public Library and did the program **"Have a Bearable Summer"**. Themes for the next few years were:

- 1985 – "Reading is Cool"**
- 1986 – "Reading: The Heart of it All"**

In **1986**, an editorial board was formed to expand the manual, soliciting program ideas from around the state. The manual was divided into age levels from preschool to upper elementary and included a public relations section in addition to crafts, games, and program ideas.

"Summer Splash" was the program for **1987** and was a very popular program which combined detective and water fun themes.

The following slogans were used from **1988** through **1996**:

- 1988 – "A Sendak Celebration: Let the Reading Begin!"**
- 1989 – "Hungry For Books? Check our Menu!"**
- 1990 – "Read For the Fun of It!"**
- 1991 – "Hats Off To Books!"**
- 1992 – "Ticket To Read"**
- 1993 – "Spinning Yarns! Telling Tales!"**
- 1994 – "Step Into the Spotlight: Read!"**
- 1995 – "Rally Round Rugged Readers"**
- 1996 – "Read for the Gold!"**

In **1997** we worked with Paul Brett Johnson on a Western theme called **"Ride A Wild Book!"** Themes for the next six years were:

- 1998 – "Drop Anchor in a Good Book"**
- 1999 – "The Incredible Library Time Machine"**
- 2000 – "Into Books and Out of This World"**
- 2001 – "Where in the World Are You Reading"**
- 2002 – "Your Library: The Greatest Show in Town"**
- 2003 – "Celebrate Ohio"**

In **2004** the State Library joined the national Collaborative Summer Library Program (www.csllpreads.org). This group 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. Currently, forty-six states and the District of Columbia participate in CSLP, along with American Samoa, Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Mariana Islands. Additionally, libraries in California, Illinois, Minnesota, and Virginia are members in part.

General themes are chosen three years in advance, and slogans are chosen two years in advance. Past CSLP slogans for children's summer reading programs include:

- 2004 – “Discover New Trails @ Your Library”**
- 2005 – “Dragons, Dreams, and Daring Deeds”**
- 2006 – “Paws, Claws, Scales, and Tales”**
- 2007 – “Get A Clue @ Your Library”**
- 2008 – “Catch the Reading Bug”**
- 2009 – “Be Creative @ Your Library”**
- 2010 – “Make a Splash @ Your Library”**
- 2011 – “One World, Many Stories”**
- 2012 – “Dream Big – Read!”**
- 2013 – “Dig Into Reading”**
- 2014 – “Fizz, Boom, Read”**
- 2015 – “Every Hero Has a Story”**
- 2016 – “On Your Mark, Get Set, Read!”**

CSLP also offers artwork, manuals, and other resources supporting a teen program, an adult program, and starting in 2011, an early literacy program. The teen and adult programs follow the same general theme as the children's program (e.g. nighttime, underground, science). Separate slogans were developed for adult and teen programs through 2016. In 2017, the CSLP children's, teen, and adult programs will all share a single slogan, "**Build a Better World**". In 2018, the CSLP slogan for all age groups will be "**Libraries Rock!**" in conjunction with a music theme.

The State Library of Ohio joined CSLP because we wanted to continue to offer high quality resources to children's librarians in our state. There is strength in numbers and our membership allows libraries more buying power to purchase posters, reading logs, bookmarks, certificates and a variety of reading incentives at significant savings.

All Ohio public libraries are CSLP members under the state membership, and may access the same artwork, incentives and publicity, in addition to the extensive manuals of programming and promotional ideas for four age groups. Ohio libraries are not required to use CSLP themes and materials for their summer library programs/summer reading programs.

The guiding principle of CSLP fits well with the State Library's philosophy of service to Ohio – to offer a high-quality summer reading program at a significant savings to our librarians.

Questions on the Ohio summer reading program may be directed to:
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