

Summer at the Library by Ruth Gilbert, Youth Librarian

Another school year is drawing to a close, which means you may soon have some young people at home looking for entertainment. If your family needs to get out of the house, or to get a break from screens, or a place to meet friends to play in air conditioning, look no further than your public library! The Kirkland Town Library is gearing up for another summer season of special programs and reading challenges, and we hope you'll come along for the ride.

We have reading challenges for every age. Starting June 24 children ages 0-12 can sign up for our Read & Bead program, which lets them earn beads on a necklace just by reading or being read to. The more you read, the more fantastic beads you'll have to show off on your necklace. Make sure to visit us once a week to claim a weekly limited edition bead! If you complete the challenge and read for 10 hours, you'll also get a ticket to enter into our prize raffle.

Kids and teens 12 and up can sign up for a special teen summer reading challenge, where reading for 10 hours will earn you a gift certificate for a treat from a Clinton restaurant. You can also enter a prize raffle to try to win a gift card from Bookshop.org and other goodies.

And anyone aged 18 and up can help us compete in the Clinton Challenge, where Clintons from different states compete to see whose library patrons can read the most hours by the end of the summer. It's a tight race every year, so if you hold a Kirkland Town Library card, please join in and help Clinton, NY pull ahead!

This year's summer reading theme is "Adventure Begins at Your Library," and I think we've got a jump start with all the items you can borrow to help you get outside. We have Explorer Bags for kids, telescopes, cornhole sets, brand-new bicycles and fishing poles, lawn games, and passes to area destinations like the Utica Zoo, Fort Rickey, the MOST Museum, and the Adirondack Experience. If you need entertainment for a rainy day, we've got a board game collection, a puzzle exchange, cake pans, a guitar and ukulele, and a YOTO Mini player that lets kids listen to music, podcasts, and audiobooks without a screen.

We're planning on having lots of adventures inside the library with some wonderful performers, including The Great and Powerful Dave, a hilarious magician, and Captain Jack, a library pirate. We'll also be hosting the fantastic Guild of Thespian Puppets, Didgeridoo Down Under, and Henry the Juggler.

If you've got older kids, we're offering several programs for kids entering fourth grade and up, including our Tween Book Club. Teens can volunteer to be Big Buddies in our Reading Buddies program, or compete in our cupcake decorating contest, or sell things at the Youth Market at the Clinton Farmer's Market. And if they'd prefer the privacy and quiet of their bedrooms, the library can still help by providing a Teen Lit Bag, which contains two handpicked library books, snacks, and other goodies for kids 13 and up.

Adventure awaits your family this summer! Visit the Kirkland Town Library or our website to find out about even more.