

Librarian's Shelf
Rachelle McPhillips

Build a Better World @ your library™

Columbus area teens are encouraged to participate in the Columbus Public Library's teen summer reading program that runs until July 28. Young adults entering 7th through 12th grades are invited to come to the library and read for prizes and take part in special events offered throughout the summer. This year's theme is "Build a Better World." Teen summer readers will explore that theme with activities that include building and construction, computer coding, and making a difference.

Registration continues this week on the second floor of Columbus Public Library in the Teen Space. Participants complete a registration form and receive a reading log to track the amount of time they read each week. Teens will also receive a summer reading program calendar to keep track of all our weekly events, as well as our Anytime Activities.

A new craft or activity is available each week in the Teen Space. "Anytime Activities" can be done any time participants visit the library. The first Anytime Activity is a collaborative art project. Participants will decorate a fabric square to be added to our "Difference Maker" quilt. Throughout the summer, teen summer readers will work to build a miniature city out of boxes, read for extra tickets in a prize drawing, build catapults and kaleidoscopes, and play fun guessing games. Instructions for all Anytime Activities will be posted weekly in the Teen Space. From now until July 27, the Teen Space hosts an activity each Tuesday and Thursday at 1:00 p.m. On Tuesday, June 6, Wildlife Encounters from Gretna, Nebraska, will pay us a visit. Wildlife Encounters gives summer readers a chance to see some of the world's most amazing animals up close and personal. But beware, they do call up volunteers from the audience, so teens may have the opportunity to hold, feed, or pet one of these amazing animal ambassadors. On Thursday, June 8, teen summer readers are invited to bring blankets and pillows and curl up with a movie and some fresh popcorn. Call or stop by to see which movie we'll be viewing. On Tuesday, June 13, participants will translate their names into binary code using beads and will create unique jewelry. On Thursday, June 15, visitors will build a terrarium that they can watch grow all summer long.

Other June activities involve playing with playdough and electricity, bleaching t-shirts, and an introduction to coding. To wrap up our first month of summer reading, participants will whip up something healthy and delicious with a guest from the UNL Extension office on Thursday, June 29.

In July we will learn more about coding, make our own movies, and explore the art of mehndi. This intricate and beautiful art form uses henna to stain the skin and create a temporary "tattoo." Participants need permission from a parent or guardian to apply henna and permission forms are available in the Teen Space.

Summer readers who have actively participated in the program will be eligible to attend our wrap-up party at Pawnee Plunge at the end of the summer. The Plunge will open exclusively for summer readers and participants can enjoy a picnic lunch in Pawnee Park afterward.

Young adults must have completed sixth grade in order to register for the teen program. Complete details are available in the Teen Space and our teen summer reading calendar is available at www.columbusne.us/library and www.facebook.com/columbuspubliclibrary.

If you have questions about the summer reading program, or if you are interested in supporting teen events, please call Rachelle at 402-562-4201 or stop by the library.

Summer reading events and incentives are available for all age groups. Stop by or call the library at 402-564-7116 for information about our programs for children and adults.