

Librarian's Shelf
Rachelle McPhillips

A Universe of Stories

Columbus area teens are encouraged to participate in the Columbus Public Library's teen summer reading program that runs until July 26. Young adults entering 7th through 12th grades in the 2019-20 school year 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 "A Universe of Stories." Teen summer readers will explore that theme with activities that include making galaxy inspired t-shirts, harnessing the power of the sun, creating their own mini-worlds in a cup, and more. Registration begins Tuesday, May 28 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 of our events.

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 button making. Using craft supplies and equipment provided, participants will make their own stylish pin, mirror, or magnet "button." Throughout the summer, youths can read for extra tickets in a prize drawing, build kaleidoscopes, practice yoga, and play fun guessing games. Instructions for all Anytime Activities will be posted weekly in the Teen Space.

From June 4 until July 26, the Teen Space hosts an activity each Tuesday and Thursday at 1:00 p.m. On Tuesday, June 11, 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 27, teen summer readers are invited to bring their own black or navy, 100% cotton t-shirt to decorate with bleach and fabric dye.

Other June activities involve creating solar-powered night lights, reading for extra chances to win exciting prizes, and enjoying some freshly popped popcorn while we watch a movie that young adult patrons chose themselves.

In July we will make art using bubbles, craft alien creatures, and explore the art of mehndi. This intricate and beautiful art form uses henna to stain the skin and create a temporary "tattoo." Mehndi artists will visit the Teen Space on July 23 to decorate participants for our wrap-up party.

Young adults 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.