

Librarian's Shelf
Rachelle McPhillips

"Spark a Reaction" @ your library™ This Summer

Columbus area teens are encouraged to participate in the Columbus Public Library's teen summer reading program from May 19 to July 18. 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.

Registration begins May 19 on the second floor of Columbus Public Library in the Teen Space. Participants will complete a registration form and receive a reading log to track the amount of time they read this summer. Teens will also receive a summer reading program calendar to keep track of all our weekly events, as well as our Anytime Activities.

Beginning May 27, a new craft or activity will be available each week in the Teen Space. These "Anytime Activities" can be done any time participants visit the library. The first Anytime Activity gives summer readers an opportunity to earn extra chances for prizes by participating in our "Read-In." Our second project will be a craft challenge called, "Mini Box City." Using supplies provided in the Teen Space, participants can create a miniature cityscape. Instructions for all Anytime Activities will be posted in the Teen Space.

Teens are invited to decorate the teen space on Wednesday, May 28, at 1:00 p.m. At 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 29, participants can chill out with a movie and some popcorn in the library auditorium. Movie title and rating will be posted in the Teen Space in May.

This year's theme is all about science and our weekly events have been designed to fit that theme as much as possible. We will talk about how it's possible to use ice, salt and a whole lot of shaking to create our own ice cream in a bag. Attendees will explore electricity and make little robots. Participants will also experience solar power first hand when we roast marshmallows outside without building a fire or turning on a grill!

On Wednesday, June 11 at 1:00 p.m., 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 you may have the opportunity to hold, feed, or pet one of these amazing animal ambassadors.

The Groundwater Foundation will be here on Wednesday, June 18 at 1:00 p.m. to teach us all about aquifers. They will lead us through some cool activities and participants will make their own terrarium!

Young adults who participate in the program during May, June, and July 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 at 10:00 a.m. Participants can enjoy a picnic lunch in Pawnee Park afterward.

This year teen summer reading is for patrons who have completed sixth grade. Patrons who are entering fifth and sixth grade in the 2014-15 school year have their very own program this year! Registration for that program begins May 27 in the Children's Room.

Complete details will be available in the Teen Space throughout the summer. Watch for our teen summer reading calendar 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.