

Librarian's Shelf
Rachelle McPhillips

Unmask Heroic Fun @ your library™ This Summer

Columbus area teens are encouraged to participate in the Columbus Public Library's teen summer reading program from May 26 to July 24. 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 26 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 June 1, 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 is a collaborative art project. Participants will decorate a fabric square to be added to our quilt of heroic qualities. Our second activity gives summer readers an opportunity to earn extra chances for prizes by participating in our "Read-In." Instructions for all Anytime Activities will be posted weekly in the Teen Space.

Teens are invited to decorate the teen space on Wednesday, June 3, at 1:00 p.m. At 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 4, 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 later this month.

This year's theme is all about heroes and our weekly events have been designed to fit that theme as much as possible. Attendees will investigate how the Columbus Police Department gathers evidence from a crime scene, learn about "super" foods with the UNL Extension office, and test their superhero brain power with an afternoon of trivia.

On Thursday, June 11 at 2:00 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.

Musician Michael Fitzsimmons will be here on Thursday, June 18 at 2:00 p.m. to show participants how to make their own drums. Afterward, he will show us some cool rhythms and we will drum together!

Young adults who participate in the program during 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.

Young adults must have completed sixth grade in order to register for the teen program. Patrons who are entering fifth and sixth grade in the 2015-16 school year have their very own program again this summer! Registration for that program begins May 26 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.