



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### News Release

#### Kern County Library's Annual Summer Reading Program Begins

***Paws to Read! June 2 – July 31, 2014***

Get ready to read! The Kern County Library (KCL) is taking children and teens on an adventure this summer via the annual countywide Summer Reading Program, June 2 – July 31, 2014. This summer's theme is *Paws To Read!* and during the next two months, the Library will offer over 300 **FREE** events & programs for children & teens, including reptile & magic shows, storytimes, arts & crafts, and many more events that encourage and support a love of reading. This is an opportunity to cultivate a child's inherent curiosity through books, technology, and a rich variety of programs. Last year, over 20,000 children & teens attended summer reading events at libraries countywide.

The Summer Reading Program helps to curb summer learning loss by encouraging children and teens to read a minimum of 10 items. Once the titles are recorded and verified with an adult signature, children and teens become a "Finisher!" Finishers earn a free paperback book & incentives, while supplies last. This year, Bakersfield Condors, LEGOLAND®, Auntie Anne's, Inc., BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse, Camelot Park, and Friends of the Kern County Library, Inc. and other businesses have donated books, coupons and vouchers as reading incentives for participating children & teens.

Children & teens that have easy access to books, tend to read more. And the more children & teens read, the better their fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension skills will be during the school year. When young people aren't engaged in educational activities during the summer, they experience learning loss. Having rich, engaging and free educational activities like summer reading programs are excellent tools to address the achievement gap. More than half of the achievement gap between lower and higher-income youth can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities.

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#### How to Participate in the Summer Reading Program

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1. Read 10 books, magazines, graphic novels, audiobooks, eBooks, or for teens, read for 10 hours.
2. Record your titles on a Reading Record and have a parent sign it.
3. Return the signed Reading Record to the library by **Thursday, July 31, 2014** & receive a free paperback book

To learn more about the Summer Reading Program, call Andie Apple at 868.0723 or visit [kerncountylibrary.org](http://kerncountylibrary.org)