

## Adult Summer Reading Programs

### Themes/Slogans:

- Be Creative @ the Library
- Express Yourself @ the Library
- Read, Create
- Create the Perfect Summer
- Re-Create Yourself...
- Explore New York

### Display/Programming Ideas:

- Re-create yourself: nutrition/healthy eating/cooking; exercise/yoga
- Dance/Movement: Dance Dance Revolution contest, learn to Tango, Tai Chi
- Art: how to classes, art displays, library mural – let people add to it as they wish; make a tile/create a mosaic
- One Man's Art...Antiques Roadshow, learn to e-Bay, treasure exchange
- Memories/Story in a box: put items in a box, pass it around and have each person select one and share a memory or create a story
- Theatre: reader's theatre – read a play; movie night; film discussion group
- Open Mic time: Idol contest; Poetry slam
- Music in the library – invite your local musicians or play music & invite people to bring their lunch & listen one day each week throughout the summer
- Read aloud time – bring your lunch or come for a snack/coffee and have someone read aloud a short story or a poem or tell a story
- Get creative through reading (book clubs, author visits/conference calls), writing (poetry, short stories), oral history
- Express yourself through quilting, knitting, baking, pottery
- Create a gift basket/make a card/plan a party
- Create memories with scrapbooking/shadowboxes/digital photo classes
- Express yourself a new way – learn a new language, sign language, or Braille; communicate with your pets; explore the new world of technology – download a book or video; learn to twitter; discover YouTube or MySpace; create a blog; learn how your cell phone really works
- Be creative through travel: share your experiences, watch a foreign film, visit other worlds: fantasy books/movies, animal worlds
- Create a new way of living: green living; electric car demo; landscape for nature; create a bird feeding station
- People's Choice/Readers' Recommendations: list of books recommended by program participants Book Discussions – on-line or in the library
- Families Reading Together @ the Library reading night
- Ice Cream Social
- Reader's Blog

**Program basics:**

- Easier rules mean more readers: Keep It Simple
- Include audio as well as print books & don't forget large print
- Let people read as many or as few books as they want – do random drawings for prizes
- Let people enter drawings on line as well as by filling out a form in the library – this includes patrons who may use your library from their home computer
- Provide reading lists & use displays to publicize the program & encourage people to participate
- Offer more than one way to participate: structured programs for those who want to attend an event; more casual “grab and go” opportunities for those who just want to read, view, or listen
- Market program outside the library's walls – in the community, on the web, social networking sites, etc.
- Keep it fun – for staff and participants!

**Prizes:**

- Provide contributors with sign to post in their business announcing their support for library summer reading program
- Include Summer Reading Sponsors section on your web page
- Don't limit “contributors/sponsors” to people who give you “stuff;” also include people who provide programming such as a pottery demo or a poetry reading
- Include library “rewards” – story hour for a child, fine amnesty, book placed in library in their honor, choose a book for the library from the current bestseller list & get to read it first
- Don't forget other non-profits – historical museum; community concerts; festivals; VFW fish fry; free trial at YMCA, Curves, etc.

**Why Offer Summer Reading Programs for Adults:**

- Encourages Reading!
- Provides good model for children
- Offers fun for adults
- Good library PR
- Encourages adults to experience new book genres, formats, & services
- Provides an activity everyone in the family can participate in
- Fosters community spirit
- Gives library opportunity for user input – for favorite services, genres, titles, etc.
- Fosters community networking and partnerships
- Creates new library supporters