



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Plant a Seed, Read This Summer!

SANTA CRUZ, California —Santa Cruz Public Libraries (SCPL) is thrilled to welcome the summer season with the launch of their 2026 Summer Reading Program and invites adults, children and their family members to visit their local library, or the SCPL website to sign up for the program. Reading is an art form that transports us to magical worlds and sparks our imagination and creativity. The theme of this year’s Summer Reading Program is: Plant a Seed, Read. Rooted in the concept of farm-to-table, just as a farm grows food that nourishes our bodies, a library grows ideas that nourish our minds. Both food and stories connect us to our family, culture, economy, and ecology.

The program begins on Monday, June 1, 2026 and participants win prizes for reaching their goals through each of the reading milestones set by the program. The last day to log reading minutes for the Summer Reading Program is Friday, July 31, and the last day to sign out and redeem prizes is Sunday, August 9, 2026. During the next two months, every branch in our ten library system will host a range of free activities for children, teens, and adults to encourage and support a love of reading.

“The Summer Reading Program is all about celebrating reading for pleasure and encouraging children and everyone to keep reading all summer long.” Youth Programs and Services Manager Heather Norquist says. “I love that we have this opportunity to host special performances by magicians, puppeteers, musicians and more, and that we give children books as incentive prizes to build their home libraries. This year we are also offering a fantastic selection of arts and crafts programs to go along with the Plant a Seed, Read theme.” Norquist added.

Adult Programs and Services Manager, Jessica Goodman commented, “Summer Reading is not just for kids. We invite all adults to slow down and enjoy a summer filled with creativity, community, and unique learning experiences for wide-ranging interests. Check out everything from gardening workshops to author talks, and delight in a music performance of rhythms around the world. Get creative with nature journaling, mosaics, sketching and painting, and botanical bundle dyeing. Get fascinated by science talks about astronomy, bees, mountain lions and bobcats, bats, and everyday chemistry. Discover the farmworker experience with the Center for Farmworker Families, and dream of a hopeful and sustainable future together in a special series of Solarpunk workshops with the Liminal Space Collective Interdependence Project.” Goodman added “Spend some summer leisure time reading for pleasure, and you can win Renee’s Garden seeds, our custom designed Summer Reading 2026 vinyl sticker, plus have a chance to win Santa Cruz Shakespeare



tickets, a Museum of Art and History Fan membership pass, or a Monterey Bay Aquarium family membership!”

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ABOUT THE SANTA CRUZ PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM:

Santa Cruz Public Libraries (SCPL) brings people, information, and resources together to enrich lives and strengthen the community. SCPL gives every Santa Cruz community member the opportunity to learn through educational resources, classes, and staff support. The Library develops programs for the broad community as well as for specific groups like students, seniors, and those who are most vulnerable, including the unhoused and incarcerated. SCPL also curates specialty collections, like genealogy and local history. Learn more about SCPL at [SantaCruzPL.org](https://www.santacruzpl.org) or on social media. To access the SCPL Press Kit visit <https://www.santacruzpl.org/press-kit/>.