

Summer Reading Activities

(Grades K-8)



Use this sheet to help plan your Summer Reading activities.

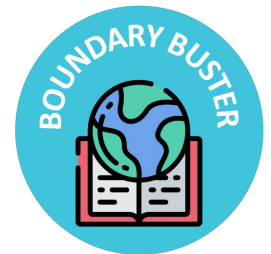
Complete at least 4 activities in each category to earn the badge and make your button.

Make sure to check off the activities online to receive your badges!

Sign up and log all reading and activities at balibrary.org/summer

Boundary Buster

- Read a book about someone who has a disability. Check out our booklist for inspiration. What book did you read? [Boundary Buster Booklist](#)
- Read a book about a character who doesn't look like you. What book did you read?
- Read a book about something you know nothing about. What book did you read?
- Read a book about someone who is a different gender than you. What book did you read?
- Read a book published before you were born. What book did you read?
- Read a book about or set in another country. Check out our booklist for inspiration. What book did you read?
[Country Booklist](#)
- Read a book that was translated from another language. Check out our booklist for inspiration. What book did you read? [Translated Booklist](#)
- Listen to music from another country. What kind of music did you try?
- Try a dish from another country at a restaurant, a friend's house, or make it yourself at home. What did you try?
- Watch a movie made in another country or in another language. What movie did you watch?



Green Thumb

- Attend the library program Family Volunteering at Smart Farm, or volunteer at Smart Farm on your own. What did you do?
- Try repairing a broken toy or mending torn clothing instead of tossing and replacing it. What did you fix or mend?
- Read a book about gardening or conservation. What book did you read? [Green Thumb Booklist](#)
- Remember to bring reusable bags the next time you go to a store.
- Find one way you can save energy at home. Try switching to LED lightbulbs, unplugging your TV when it's not on, or checking your local recycling guide to see if something you throw in the garbage could be recycled by your town. What did you do?
- Visit a local farmer's market to shop or learn what fruits and vegetables are grown in our area. (And if you go to Barrington's Farmer's Market, stop by the library's booth to say "hi!") What produce did you see?
- Try growing something yourself at home, out in the garden or inside in a container: flowers, herbs, vegetables, even a tree. What plant did you try?
- Try a new fruit or vegetable. What did you try?



Health Hero

- Read a book about sports or fitness. Check out our booklist for inspiration. What book did you read? [Health Hero Booklist](#)
- Make a healthy snack. Check out our cookbook section for inspiration. What did you make?
- Take a family walk or a bike ride. If you have a dog, bring him/her with; they need to stay healthy too. Where did you go?
- Take a mindful moment. Sit in a quiet space, close your eyes, and focus on the feeling of your breathing. Or open your eyes and notice all the things around you that you can see, hear, smell, and feel. How did this exercise make you feel? [Mindfulness Booklist](#)
- Organize a game outside with siblings or friends. Get your heart rate up with tag, kickball, or a new way to play. What did you play?
- Instead of pop or lemonade, choose a glass of water. (Make it fancy with a slice of fresh fruit or sprig of mint, or try flavored seltzer if you're missing some sweetness.) Tell us what you tried.
- Jazz up movie night by jumping up for a mini dance party during the songs. Or if you're watching TV, try jumping jacks during the commercials. What did you do?
- Try out a new sport or fitness activity. (The library is offering a kids' yoga class!) What did you try? [Library Events](#)



Kindness Crusader

- Create a handmade gift for someone who needs cheering up. What did you make?
- Tackle a chore around the house without being asked. What did you do?
- Make a new friend. Ask a neighbor, campmate, or kid at the library if they want to play with you. Tell us what you did.
- Write and send a thank-you to someone who's helped you. Who did you thank?
- Brighten your neighborhood by writing positive messages or cheerful drawings with sidewalk chalk. What did you draw?
- Donate a canned good at a local food pantry.
- Read a fiction or nonfiction book about someone who helps others. Type the name of the book and what you thought. [Kindness Crusader Booklist](#)
- Spend a day volunteering, for a needy neighbor, a helping organization, or another great cause. Tell us what you did.



Marvelous Maker

- Attend an art or maker program at the library. Check out our calendar of events. What did you make? [Library Events](#)
- Get creative in the kitchen! Try out a new recipe with your family, or try decorating a dessert. What did you make?
- Try out photography. Capture family members in a series of portraits, or do a nature walk and snap the things you see. What kind of photos did you take?
- Create your own video game. Try Scratch or Hopscotch to get started. Tell us what you created. [Scratch](#)
- Make a digital self-portrait in StudioKids. Use the Green Screen to add a fantastic background. What did you create? [StudioKids](#)
- Check out and read a book about an artist or inventor. Check out our booklist for inspiration. Who did you read about? [Marvelous Maker Booklist](#)
- Create an artwork inspired by a book you read. Use any medium you want: pencil, paint, modeling clay, even objects you find in nature. Tell us what you made.
- Use the MakerLab equipment to create something special. Not sure where to get started? Make an appointment with a librarian. What did you make? [MakerLab](#)



Science Star

- Try out birding: take a walk and see what birds you can identify in your neighborhood. Use your eyes and your ears! What birds did you see?
- Read a science fiction book. Check out our booklist for inspiration. What book did you read? [Science Fiction Booklist](#)
- Read a nonfiction book about a scientific topic. Check out our booklist for inspiration. What did you learn about? [Science Star Booklist](#)
- Watch a nature show or documentary. What did you learn about?
- Attend a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math) program at the library and learn about coding, robotics, earthquakes, and more. Check out our online calendar for program information. What program did you attend? [Library Events](#)
- Solve a scientific mystery: think of a question you have about the world. (“Why do rainbows happen?” “How do bugs sleep in the winter?” etc.) Find the answer through research (ask for help at the library!) or your own experiment. What was your question?
- Investigate the night sky. See if you can identify any constellations, or other celestial bodies. Tell us what you saw.
- Practice data collection by tracking the temperature and/or weather conditions for a week. Tell us your findings.



Treasure Hunter

- Explore the MakerLab and find the secret code.
- Check out the StoryWalk outside the library to find a secret code.
- Book the game room and race with friends in Mario Kart, while you look for the secret code.
- Check out a STEM or Read-Along backpack from the library and find the secret code hidden inside. [Backpacks](#)
- Check out Studio Kids and seek out the secret code.
- Ask for a book suggestion and the librarian will give you a secret code.
- Complete the Nature Scavenger Hunt around the library. Pick up the checklist at the Youth Desk. Show us you completed it to get the secret code.
- Check out an awesome fiction or nonfiction book about treasure hunts or secret codes. What book did you read? [Treasure Hunter Booklist](#)



Wishtree

- Read the Book of the Summer, *Wishtree* by Katherine Applegate. (The library has lots of copies!) Tell us what you thought.
- Be a part of a book discussion; sign up for one of the library’s book clubs, or create your own group of friends and/or family members. Find discussion questions online. What did you discuss?
- Add a wish to the library’s collaborative art project in the Youth Services Department.
- Learn about trees and plants by reading a nonfiction book. Check out our booklist for inspiration. What did you learn? [Trees and Plants Booklist](#)
- Attend one of the library’s nature programs. Check our online schedule for program information. Which program did you attend? [Library Events](#)
- Pick a tree in your yard or neighborhood. What do you think its name would be? What does it see? What would it wish for? Write a short story or poem to collect your thoughts and share it. Optional: bring your work to the library, and we’ll snap a picture with you and share it with the community.
- Create an artwork inspired by Wishtree. It could be anything: a painting of a tree, a drawing of the skunk family, a 3D mobile of your own wishes and ribbons. Optional: bring your work to the library, and we’ll snap a picture with you and share it with the community. What did you create?
- Get involved in a community project or event, big or small. Ask a neighbor to help you clean up litter around town; go to your neighborhood block party; organize an outdoor game; the sky is the limit. Tell us what you did.

