



August 12, 2016

Edited by: Stephanie Taylor

Summer Reading Special Edition 2016, Part I

If you are reading this, it means you survived another year of Summer Reading Programs (SRP)! This year the theme was wellness, fitness, and sports. Libraries across the state had kids moving and shaking with creative and fun programs. Check out what libraries in Alabama did for the 2016 SRP.

Bridgeport



To avoid the unbearable heat outside, Lena Cagle Public Library in Bridgeport had an indoor *Gooney Golf Course*. Kids also had a great time playing Twister at the end of summer program, and one tiny patron enjoyed watching the older kids.



Springville

Participants at Springville Public Library received a summer reading log to record all the books they checked out and read from June 1st to June 22nd. 85 people showed up for the first event! Prizes for top readers in three different age categories were awarded at a pizza party on June 24th.



Odenville

Odenville Public Library's Summer Reading participants read over 400 books! With the help of some wonderful volunteers, over 100 children enjoyed the program as they played carpet golf, croquet, and beanbag toss. The library gave out pizza, ice cold drinks, and prizes.



Prattville

Autauga-Prattville Public Library attracted over 150 kids to the *Tickled Pink Petting Zoo*.



Llama Llama visited for preschool and toddler story times.



Satsuma

Satsuma Public Library patrons enjoyed a great program this year with special guest Mario Butler, University of Mobile basketball player. Kids also enjoyed a program by the Satsuma High School Band and an animal adventure with the *Freedom Ranch*. The top readers are pictured below.



Ragland



Ragland Public Library hosted a field day at the Ragland Baseball Field/Splash Pad. Attendees played relay games and enjoyed the splash pad and playground equipment. At another program, *Magic Man Bill Packard* (above) performed magic tricks and told stories related to the theme. *Starshine Faces* told stories that incorporated face painting. *6th Day Creatures* (below) drew the largest crowd of the summer when they brought in live animals. The library wrapped things up with a pizza party. All of the programs had a great turnout, and kids had a blast all summer long!



Union Springs



Kids at Union Springs Public Library got to see a Brazilian rainbow boa, a red kangaroo, a Norway rat, a fruit bat, and a falcon when *Animal Tales* visited.

Sylacauga



B.B. Comer Memorial Library in Sylacauga had patrons singing and dancing with Roger Day (above). The Alabama Department of Archives shared a program called *Alabamians in the Olympics*, and children got their own medals (below).



Dutton



Fun program hosts like *Jason and Company* (above) and *Yarbrough's Educational Reptiles* inspired 76 children to register for SRP at Dutton Public Library.

Birmingham

Birmingham Public Library and their branch locations hosted over 500 programs all over the city this summer. Here is a recap of a few of those fantastic programs.

The Avondale branch allowed attendees to exercise their minds and bodies with music that made them want to dance when *George Griffin and the Firebirds* played a free concert on June 6th. Kids got to experience Lee Bryan, better known as *That Puppet Guy*, when he led kids through a night of Aesop's fables. Storytelling programs were offered all over the city including one by storyteller Cassandra Scott (photo below) who generated laughter from toddlers attending a program called *On Your Mark, Get Set...Whee*.



Teens also had the option of attending several programs tailored to their age group. They had fun with chemical reactions when they explored states of matter by making elephant toothpaste, mixing Diet Coke with Mentos, and much more. Local artist Cherie Hunt provided step-by-step instructions for teens to complete their very own canvas masterpiece. UAB's *Enabling Technologies Laboratory* provided an interactive presentation and discussion for teens regarding virtual reality, complete with giant screens and Oculus Rift headsets. *M.A.D. Skillz Dance Company* taught program goers the latest dance moves.

NFL receiver and Birmingham native Jerricho Cotchery talked about the importance of reading at Five Points West Regional Library. "Even in football, most of the work done is in the classroom," Cotchery said. "Reading is the foundation; education never ends. You will still be in the classroom learning no matter what career you choose. "



Jerricho Cotchery made kids extremely happy by signing autographs.

Adults enjoyed a poetry workshop, learned the basics of knitting, heard about an introduction to genealogy, and learned the basics of Origami. They also got a glimpse of Birmingham life in 1916 when the Southern History Department shared news, stories, and advertisements from the past,

Russell Lee, librarian and certified exercise trainer with the Birmingham YMCA, held a series of exercise classes where attendees learned how to keep fit. Toby Richards, curator for the Negro Southern League Museum, shared artifacts from the rare and priceless collection of Dr. Layton Revel beyond the walls of the museum and into the community for a hands-on experience for all ages.

Orange Beach

This summer, Orange Beach Public Library welcomed Russell Davis, who performed a magic show and *Dr. Magical Balloons*, who presented an original play that featured balloon creations. The *South Baldwin Dance Center* also came out to help kids learn a hip-hop routine. *Animal Tales* made an appearance, and they brought a bevy of live animals for kids to see, touch, and learn about. *Tom Foolery* and his juggling extravaganza provided a high-energy circus show involving juggling, comedy, danger, and most importantly, his monster unicycle!

Alabaster

Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster hosted six weeks of programs for nearly 620 children. They set goals, checked out and read books, and earned prizes. They also enjoyed many other activities including: *On Your Mark, Get Magical, Read with Magician Russell Davis, Skin and Bones Comedy Circus, Iron Giant Percussion, Alabamians in the Olympics* with the Alabama Department of Archives, *Reading: The Sport of Champions* with Magician Tommy Johns, *Be-at Your Best* with Mark Seymour, and much more!



Young adults enjoyed Culinary Quests with Charity Battles of Alabama 4-H. They made smoothies and wraps.

Pell City

Pell City Public Library had a busy summer. Robbie Lewis from *Hoops for Fitness* taught kids the fundamentals of Hula Hooping. *Tom Foolery* came to show off his juggling and unicycling skills. Author Michael A. Steele taught kids about movie special effects. *6th Day Creations* showed off live animals including the Albino Burmese Python below.



Munford

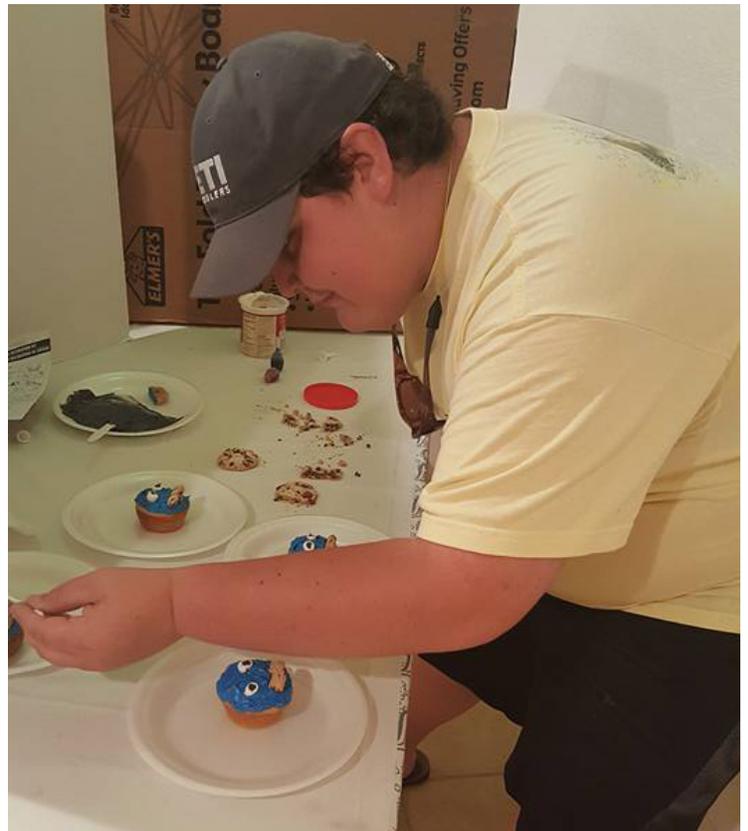
Munford Public Library hosted programs by the *Alabama Department of Archives, Miss Kit's Bubble School, Tommy Johns, and Yarbrough's Educational Reptiles.*



Bret Holmes, racecar driver for the NASCAR ARCA series and native of Munford, made a special visit to sign autographs and take photos with the kids.

Stevenson

Stevenson Public Library held their *First Annual Cupcake Wars* as part of their teen summer program.



Eva

Yoga Instructor Ellen Neal taught grade K-4 some basic stretches at one of Eva Public Library's programs.



Foley

Foley Public Library saw over 500 attendees at each program, and over 15,000 books were read and logged. Four great entertainers performed at each program with a very special reading (and acting out) of an *Elephant & Piggie* book by Mo Willems occurring at each. The crowds were ecstatic about the performances.

Many wonderful prizes were given out at the finale. Each attendee received a watch and free certificates from various businesses in the area. Drawings were done from the many reading logs received and one boy and one girl each received a bicycle. Thirty other children received \$50 gift certificates from either Under Armour or Nike. Mellow Mushroom supplied a wonderful pizza party for all attendees at the finale.



Woodville

Woodville Public Library kicked things off with Magician Russell Davis. Sports Announcer Chase Horn spoke at the second program on June 15th. Sports Reporter Sara Hodges talked about her life and job and read a story to the 75 people in attendance on June 22nd. The library wrapped things up at the end of June by awarding prizes and goodie bags. 96 people attended the finale. A Dollar General Summer Reading grant helped fund these wonderful programs.



Talladega

Magician Skip McCain entertained kids at Armstrong-Osborne Public Library in Talladega.



Comedian and Juggler Ron Anglin also had kids laughing.



Stay tuned for more Summer Reading around the state in the Special Edition Part III!