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AVOID THE SUMMER SLIDE! SUMMER READING KICKS OFF JUNE 1
Huntsville-Madison County Public Library system hosting with different format amid COVID-19

HUNTSVILLE (May 28, 2020) – The Huntsville-Madison County Public Library (HMCPL) is moving forward with a summer reading program though it will have a different format this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Beginning June 1, parents and caregivers can pick up a summer reading activity bag through the Library's curbside service at their local branch or they can reserve one [online](#) along with a grab bag of books.

"Summer reading is an opportunity for students to avoid the summer slide," said Mandy Pinyan, Manager of Outreach Services. "Studies have shown that students who don't read or read rarely during the summer experience a loss or stagnation of reading skills. That is why our program is so important."

This year, the primary focus will be on reading books, tracking progress for prizes and making crafts that go along with the summer reading theme, "Imagine Your Story." Each week, the library will offer a free take and make craft, as well as a grab bag of books. The Library will also have weekly virtual story times and programs on its [YouTube](#) channel. Children can even craft along with the library via YouTube.

"Though we are disappointed about not being able to offer the many wonderful programs the Library is known for hosting, reading is still at the heart of our program and that is what is important right now," said Pinyan.

In addition to picking up materials at the local library locations, the BookMobile will be on tour this summer around the county, with the goal to put books in the hands of children. The BookMobile will visit the Cavalry Hill Branch Library every Tuesday, from 2:30-4:30 p.m. to pass out books and materials to children. Additional locations and dates will be announced on our summer reading website.

The Library is also encouraging children to submit their video book reviews for a chance to win a prize and to have their video shared on their social media and YouTube page.

"We absolutely love to hear what our patrons are reading and what they enjoy. Children have a very honest way of communicating their likes and dislikes, and we take their recommendations to heart when selecting books and other materials, " Pinyan enthused.

"Summer is so important to the Library, because we fight the Summer Slide, offer fun programs and connect children and stories that boost their imagination, cognitive thinking and communication skills. Books are truly magical, and we love being the keepers of that magic."

Parents and caregivers may submit summer reading book trackers by scanning or snapping a picture and sending them to summerreading@hmcpl.org for a prize entry. Paper entries will be accepted at your local branch.
For more details on this year's summer reading program, including required summer reading lists for your child's school, visit hmcpl.org/summer.

About Huntsville-Madison County Public Library
This is the public's library. Huntsville-Madison County Public Library (HMCPL) is a nonprofit 12-branch system that serves all of Madison County, Ala. For 200 years, the library has been dedicated to enriching the educational, recreational and cultural lives of communities in Madison County through materials, information and programs that foster a lifelong love of learning. In addition to the collection of over 500,000 items, HMCPL also provides outreach services, a BookMobile and BookBike, online services, training, an extensive digital collection, public-use computers, free Wi-fi, meeting spaces and much more. For more information about HMCPL and its services, please visit hmcpl.org.

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