



Library IN THE LOOP



PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY
SUMMER READING 2022

JUNE 5 TO JULY 16

Summer Reading 2022: Read Beyond the Beaten Path

Summer Reading 2022 officially starts June 5, but it's still not too late to sign up. This year's theme is "Read Beyond the Beaten Path."

Come to our "Where the Wild Things Are" Summer Reading Kick-Off Party on Saturday, June 4 at North Branch, 3001 W. Grand Pkwy. The party starts at 11 a.m., with fun activities planned through 3 p.m. Free and open to all.

11 a.m. – 3 p.m. – Food trucks, crafts, games and raffles

11:30 a.m. – Zoomobile

1 p.m. – Special Storytime

1:30 p.m. – Bingo

All ages are invited to participate in Summer Reading. Read a minimum of 3 hours a week for at least 5 of the 6 weeks and you will be eligible to come to our exclusive, after-hours Zoo party. We're also bringing back our popular Adults (only!) Summer Reading party. Until then, look for Summer Reading sign-up information at every Peoria Public Library location.

Sign up in person at your favorite branch or register online via [Beanstack](#)

Starting June 5, log your reading – anything and everything counts. Parents, reading to your child counts. Summer Reading is open to everyone – ages 0 to 99+

Special Note: Summer Readers at Lincoln Branch who complete Summer Reading — 3 hours a week for 6 weeks — are eligible to be part of our annual bike drawing. Open to pre-K through high schoolers. Must be registered at Lincoln Branch.

Many thanks to sponsors Glenn & Margaret Miller!

Still have questions or need help signing up? Call our Programming Department at (309) 497-2143 or 497-2150 or email programming@ppl.peoria.lib.il.us

Meet Our New Deputy Director

Veronica De Fazio joined Peoria Public Library in May after longtime Deputy Director Roberta Koscielski retired.

Ms. De Fazio has more than 20 years of experience at medium and large libraries in Illinois and comes to Peoria from Plainfield Public Library, where she led Youth Services since 2010. Her experience



also includes more than a decade at Des Plaines Public Library and several years of experience on the Illinois Library Association's Executive Board. She is currently the ILA's immediate past president.

"I feel lucky to be joining Peoria Public Library, knowing what it has to offer thanks to having family here. I've been impressed with what I've seen, and I'm very excited to become more connected to both the library and the community," said De Fazio. "My work with the Illinois Library Association involved a lot of outreach to libraries across the state, and I think those contacts and that knowledge can only help me in this new role."

In leading the ILA, the third largest state library association in the country, De Fazio was a key voice for Illinois libraries and the millions of people who depend on them. She is also active in the children's music community and hosts a blog, Kids Rhythm and Rock – kidsrhythmandrock.com – for librarians, teachers and parents.

We asked her a few fun questions so we can all get to know her better.

What made you decide to become a librarian? Growing up in a small town in Michigan, I was a very shy, introverted child. The staff at my public library always made me feel seen and respected. When I was trying to figure out what to do with my life, I realized that I wanted to make kids feel the way that those folks made me feel, so I became a librarian.

Do you have any special memories of your library growing up or of Summer Reading? My library was in an old JCPenney's building and the children's department was on the second floor. During the summer, they would write the names of all the children in the summer reading program on a giant flip pad of paper. During each visit to the library, after you told the librarian about your favorite book, they would add stickers after your name depending on how many books you read. At the end of the summer, you got a certificate. My Pac-Man certificate is still a prized possession!

Did you have a favorite book or book character growing up? Alanna from the Tortall series by Tamora Pierce.

We know you haven't been here long, but give us your first impression of Peoria. Peoria is a town with an incredibly rich history that has a wealth of arts and entertainment. I can't wait to delve into all the area has to offer.

If you could skip one part of your daily routine, what would it be and why? Cooking dinner. It's just so much work and is always over so fast.

What's your favorite way to spend a free weekend? When the weather is nice I enjoy spending time outside working in the garden or exploring new walking trails. When it's dreary outside, there's still nothing better than curling up with a good book!

What does your ideal library look like? My ideal library would be a bustling community space. A place for collaboration, study, music, storytimes, books, and classes for everything from lawnmower repair to basic computer skills. It would be a destination for those in the community and a reflection of the people that it serves.



Crafts for Kids

Summer vacation is great – until boredom hits. Peoria Public Library has a great variety of free arts and crafts classes this June to break the boredom blues.

Every Thursday in June

10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., McClure Branch
Drop-In Crafty Camp - Every week, we'll make something new! Ages 6 to 11.

Thursday, June 9

2 p.m. to 3 p.m., Lincoln Branch
DIY Sand Art - Create your own wall art with colored sand and a canvas. All supplies provided. For children of all ages.

Friday, June 3

3 p.m. to 5 p.m., Lakeview Branch

Drop-In: First Fridays Art - We'll provide all the space and supplies that your little ones need to get creative.

Dress for a mess. Ages 5 and older.

Saturday, June 4 & Sunday, June 5

Lakeview Branch

Craft-to-Go: Hot Air Balloon Kits - Stop by anytime we're open this weekend and pick up a hot air balloon craft kit.

For children of all ages. While supplies last.

June 6-20th

North Branch

Craft Kit To Go: Dragonflies - Pick up a kit to make a clothespin dragonfly.

For children of all ages. While supplies last.

Monday, June 6

10 a.m. to 11 a.m., Lincoln Branch

Blackout Poetry - Come learn now to create original poems using existing texts. Ages 12 to 18.

Sunday, June 12

1 p.m. to 3 p.m., North Branch

Drop In DIY for Dad - Build something special for dad. Supplies provided. For children of all ages.

Tuesday, June 14

2 p.m. to 3 p.m., Lincoln Branch

Sidewalk Chalk Art - Turn the sidewalks around Lincoln Branch into a colorful gallery of sidewalk chalk art.

For children of all ages.

Wednesday, June 22

4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., North Branch

Drop IN: DIY Craft for Teens - Make a credit card wallet for your phone. Ages 12 to 18.

Thursday, June 23

11 a.m. to Noon, McClure Branch

Add some light to your summer nights with your own tin can lantern. Supplies provided. Ages 12 to 18.

Thursday, June 23

4 p.m. to 5 p.m., Main Library

Make a variety of cool crafts — from origami to crafts that move. Ages 6 to 11.

