

SMART Summer at Dallas Public Library



City of Dallas

**Quality of Life, Arts, and
Culture committee
June 9, 2025**

Heather Lowe, Director (I)
Melissa Dease, Assistant Director (I)
LaTari Prater, Youth Services Administrator
Dallas Public Library
City of Dallas

Presentation Overview



- May 31 to August 9
- Reading and learning challenge for all ages
- Science, Math, Art, Reading and Technology
- Includes hands-on activities and guest performers at every location—and reading



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Why SMART Summer



- Addresses summer learning loss in reading, math and science
- Provides enrichment opportunities for kids in all neighborhoods
- Supports different learning styles and reading trauma – read what you want!
- Encourages reading as a family value



2024 Results



- 9,388 children and adults registered to track their reading and activity
- 41,818 children and families attended more than 2,000 library programs
- 15,829 free meals were served to children



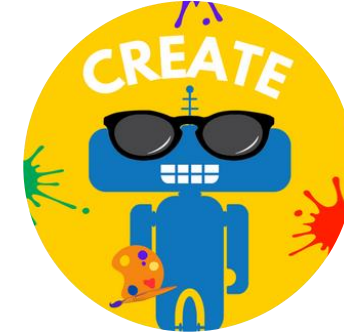
Youth Challenge



- Read 20 minutes a day, including books, magazines, being read to, etc.



- Attend a library event
- Research family history
- Learn about planes
- Visit a new park
- Learn to roller skate



- Draw, color or paint
- Write a poem
- Learn to dance
- Visit a new park
- Create a costume
- Make applesauce



How it Works



- Read 20 minutes a day for 10 days
- Discover or learn 10 new things
- Create or make 10 new things
- Earn a free book every 10 days or 10 activities (up to 5 times during the summer)
- Complete 30 days and 20 activities to be entered in the grand prize drawing



Adult Challenge



- Read 30 minutes a day for 15 days
- Discover or learn 5 new things
- Create or make 5 new things
- Earn a free book every 15 days of reading
- Pick a prize from the “prize bag” for every 5 activities
- Adults who complete 45 days of reading and 10 activities are entered in the grand prize drawing



Programs & Events



- Hands-on STEM activities
- Live animals
- Magicians
- Music and Dance
- Science demonstrations
- Programs from partners including Perot Museum, Dallas Museum of Art and others

Plus free summer lunches and snacks at some locations provided by Education PV through the Texas Department of Agriculture.



Library + Parks



- 10 library branches are hosting PKR summer camps
 - Includes regular “library time”
- DPL is a partner in PKR’s Teen All Access Pass, providing Teen DIY Kits to passholders in July



Summer Saturdays at Central



- Activating the Central Library & Attracting new people to downtown
 - Shakespeare's REN Day
 - Nature Expo
 - An Evening at Pemberley
 - Get Lit
- More than 2,000 people attended these events in 2024



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