

Mercer County's 2014 Summer Reading Program Begins June 23

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**MEDIA CONTACT: Michelle Cromwell
(609) 259-2150**

TRENTON, N.J.-The [Mercer County Library System](#) launches its annual summer reading program on Monday, June 23. Residents can discover new books, make new friends, stay cool and enjoy family-friendly programs by participating in "Fizz Boom Read" for kids and "Spark a Reaction" for teens.

Free registration for the children's Summer Reading Program is easy. It begins on June 23 and continues throughout the program, which ends on Aug. 8. Incentive prizes are awarded weekly as children 11 and under make return visits to the library with their reading logs.

The online teen program, "Spark a Reaction," is available between June 23 and Aug. 22 for ages 12 to 18 years. Teens may register via the library's website, with a user name and password, returning to their account to record books as they read them. Teen events and prizes offered vary by branch location.

Fun, educational activities and contests are planned from June through early August at all branches. A variety of programs are scheduled including The Juggling Hoffmans, Kurt Gallagher, What-Knott Farm Petting Zoo, Enjoy Explore India, Miss Penny Puppet Show, Global Rhythms, Mad Science of West New Jersey, Youth Stages and many more.

Some programs require pre-registration with a valid Mercer County Library System card. All programs are free. Monthly event listings and reading log registration details are available in early June at branch locations. Events can also be found on the [library's website](#).

"Our goal is to keep children, teens and adults engaged with libraries throughout the summer by offering incentives and opportunities related to reading," said Mercer County Executive Brian M. Hughes. "Our summer reading program improves access to library materials and literacy-related activities such as story hours, creative arts, performances and other special events, and encourages youth to become lifelong library users and readers."

Mercer County Library System's nine branch locations are located in member municipalities as follows: Ewing, Hickory Corner (East Windsor), Hightstown, Hollowbrook Community Center (Ewing), Hopewell, Lawrence, Robbinsville, Twin Rivers and West Windsor.

Summer events at most branches are intended to meet the demand of individuals and families residing in member municipalities. Groups or organizations physically located within member municipalities may contact their local branch to find out which months of the year they may best be accommodated with outreach programming, or if any summer programs may be appropriate for larger groups.

Programming is paid for by the Friends of the Library or local library association or advisory committee at each branch location. Additional sponsorship is received by the New Jersey Statewide Summer Reading Program and local businesses that have donated prizes.