



**CHELSEA DISTRICT LIBRARY**  
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**Flex Your Reading Muscles with Summer Reading/Summer Learning 2016!**

Where can you meet a skink, create your own stop-motion animation project, try yoga with the whole family, see a magic bunny, enjoy snacks and stories every Tuesday and Friday, and read to a Library Dog—all while earning free prizes and books? At the Chelsea District Library's children's Summer Reading/Summer Learning Program, "On Your Mark, Get Set... Read!"

On June 15th, "On Your Mark, Get Set... Read!" begins with the official Summer Reading/Summer Learning Kickoff from noon to 2:00pm on the Library Lawn. Children will have fun trying out fitness activities like martial arts from Chelsea ATA, and making their way through a "laser" maze. Games, crafts, a bounce house, karaoke, snow cones, and more will all be available at the library.

Following the Kickoff will be a program in the McKune Room from Dynamic School Assemblies, called "Animals Around the World." Meet all kinds of small animals like lizards, frogs, snakes, and even a skink, and learn about animal behaviors in different environments from 2:00-3:00pm up in the McKune Room.

Also, at the Kickoff, the Chelsea Masons will be providing free child identification packages through their Michigan Child ID Program, which provides parents and guardians with a completed Child ID Package containing all the information necessary to expedite law enforcement efforts to locate a missing child. This program also helps to educate families about abduction prevention and safety. Come to KidSpot between noon and 2:00pm to pick up your kit.

New this year, the library is introducing online registration for Summer Reading/Summer Learning. Starting May 15, all ages can visit [chelseadistrictlibrary.org/srp](http://chelseadistrictlibrary.org/srp) and follow the prompts to register. Then, come to the Kickoff (or visit the library any time after June 15) to pick up your Reading Log and start reading. Those who need help with registration are welcome to stop by the library any time after May 15.

The library is partnering with the Chelsea School District to make Summer Reading/Summer Learning a part of every Chelsea elementary school student's summer activities. Librarian Karen Persello, head of Youth and Teen Services, said that Summer Reading can make a big difference in preventing the "summer slide."

"We send Summer Reading registration instructions and reading logs home with over 1000 students in order to raise awareness about how important it is for kids to keep reading and learning over the summer," she said. According to a report from the National Summer Learning Association, many teachers spend time each fall re-teaching things their students forget over the summer.

The summer slide doesn't just affect student reading skills, so the Summer Reading/Summer Learning Program will again include a weekly Discovery Center featuring science projects, and take-home Challenge Cards that involve family participation and problem solving. The Science and Math Stations will also be back for younger children to take part in.

The library is also partnering with the Dexter District Library for a new program called Summer Munch Bunch, sponsored by Faith in Action. From June 20 – August 5, kids and teens ages 3-17 can drop in for stories and nutritious snacks on Tuesdays and Fridays from 2-3pm in the library's Reading Garden.

The Summer Reading Program couldn't happen without help from the many teen volunteers who take part in the "Youth Service Group" at the library. Edith Donnell, youth and teen librarian and coordinator of the Youth Service Group, said that she loves the opportunities the teens get over the summer.

"Between running the Discovery Center and helping us with Summer Reading/Summer Learning events, our teen volunteers are learning leadership skills and giving back to their community in a meaningful way," she said. "Last year we had over 80 teen volunteers and they were all eager to help out, so this year they'll also assist with the Munch Bunch program," Donnell added.

Many thanks go to Rick Taylor of Charles Reinhart Company and the Friends of the Chelsea District Library for being major sponsors of the Summer Reading/Summer Learning Program this year.

For more information about how the Summer Reading Program works and summer events at the library, check out the library's new Summer Reading website at [www.chelseadistrictlibrary.org/srp](http://www.chelseadistrictlibrary.org/srp) or call the Youth Information desk at 734-475-8732, ext. 4.

About Us: Chelsea District Library is nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide equal access to quality resources that serve the lifelong cultural, educational and informational needs and interests of all people. The Library currently serves 14,000 residents in the Chelsea district – City of Chelsea plus Dexter, Lima, Lyndon and Sylvan townships and more than 20,000 individuals visit the Library each month. For more information visit [chelseadistrictlibrary.org](http://chelseadistrictlibrary.org).

