

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT

Stephanie Soduk, Public Relations and Development Manager

Phone: 330.458.2699

Email: ssoduk@starklibrary.org

Annual Summer Reading Challenge returns to the Library on June 6

May 17, 2016 (Canton, Ohio) –Stark County District Library’s annual Summer Reading Challenge is returning for another season of fun from June 6 – July 30, 2016. Each of the Library’s 10 locations and mobile services are participating in the challenge and will host additional reading activities for kids and teens throughout the summer months.

The Summer Reading Challenge is a long-standing activity at the Library that encourages children and teens to read throughout the summer months. When school is not in session, students risk losing some of the progress that they made throughout the year, but reading throughout the summer keeps up or improves their reading skills.

To celebrate Summer Reading, each location is hosting a kick-off event for parents and their children to attend. Each event will vary but will include fun activities and will enable children and teens to sign up for the challenge. Kick-off events will be held on the following dates:

- Lake Community Branch: Monday, June 6, 1-4 p.m.
- Main Library: Monday, June 6, 1-3 p.m.
- Madge Youtz Branch: Monday, June, 6, 1-3 p.m.
- Jackson Township Branch: Monday, June, 6, 2-4 p.m.
- Sandy Valley Branch: Monday, June, 6, 2-4 p.m.
- DeHoff Memorial Branch: Monday, June, 6, 4-7 p.m.
- East Canton Branch: Tuesday, June 7, 2-3 p.m.
- North Branch: Tuesday, June 7, 2-4 p.m.
- Plain Community Branch: Wednesday, June 8, 2-3p.m.
- Perry Sippo Branch: Thursday, June 9, 2-4 p.m.

Children and teens who participate will keep track of their reading for 50 days with the help of a summer reading map that is available in the Smart Store guide, in each Library, and at starklibrary.org/SummerReading. Traditionally the map has been available in Libraries and online, but this year the map is also printed as an insert into the Summer Smart Store Guide. The Smart Store Guide arrived in homes between May 13 and 18 and is also available at the Library.

Participants will track their daily reading and will receive a prize for every five days that they read. They will also receive a prize for reading 40 days, and another prize for reading ten bonus days. Students who

complete the challenge will also be invited to attend a special party with others who finished the challenge.

Marianna DiGiacomo, Director of Community Services, expects this year's Summer Reading Challenge to once again offer a fun and motivational way to get children to read throughout the summer. "We strive to improve literacy with our Start Smart initiative, and Summer Reading is a great way to make reading fun throughout summer. The children always enjoy the challenge of reading 40 or even 50 days, and the special prizes are good motivation for them," said DiGiacomo.

Please visit www.starklibrary.org/SummerReading for a downloadable Summer Reading Map, a list of additional literacy activities, and printable activity pages.

ABOUT THE LIBRARY

One of the 9 largest library systems in Ohio – and the county's oldest library -- Stark County District Library serves the community through 10 locations, six mobile libraries, and a 24/7 digital branch.

A 2009 winner of the prestigious National Medal for library service, the Library serves over 105,000 active cardholders, annually circulating 3.85 million items from its 1.4 million item collection and providing access to an additional 66 million items from lending networks throughout Ohio. Each year the library presents more than 9,000 programs for 170,000 attendees and provides 260,000 computer sessions on the publicly available computers found in each branch.

Today, as it reimagines itself as The Smart Store, where everything is free®, the Library is emerging as a national thought-leader with innovations such as its "no overdue fines" policy, the BikeSmart bike sharing network, and the Start Smart School Partnership.

For more information, call 330.452.0665 or visit <http://www.starklibrary.org>.

###

Stark County District Library: Start Smart. Stay Smart. Share Smart.