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## **News Release**

### ***“Be Creative” This Summer at A Library Near You***

Be creative and express yourself!

Public libraries across Colorado are gearing up to offer summer reading programs for students of all ages. Along with reading programs, libraries will offer events, crafts, prizes and other fun activities to promote the enjoyment of a good book.

School is letting out for summer breaks across Colorado and parents may want to stop by their local library (or visit their library’s Web site) for information about how to keep their children engaged in reading and learning.

This year’s Colorado summer reading theme is “Be Creative!” All summer long you can pick up fun stickers, bookmarks and fabulous books at your local public library.

Studies show that students who do not read during the summer can experience “summer set-back” in which they lose ground in learning and return to school less ready for the next year than when they began their summer break.

*“Summer is a great time for students to engage in leisure reading that sparks their imaginations,” said Commissioner of Education, Dwight D. Jones. “We continue to focus on raising student achievement in the state and creating strong reading skills is at the core of this work.”*

In the summer of 2008, more than 206,000 children and teens participated in summer reading at their local public libraries. In fact,

over the past 10 years, approximately 1.5 million participants registered for summer reading programs at their local Colorado public libraries.

So take a book along to the park, an audio book along on a long car trip, or even break out the comic books. In fact, students of all ages can have fun reading and earning prizes from their local public libraries.

"Every year for the past 10 years, we have seen an increase in children's participation in summer reading programs at public libraries," stated Eugene Hainer, Director of the Colorado State Library. "We hope for another record breaking year again in 2009."

The Colorado State Library, a unit of the Colorado Department of Education provides support to public libraries who participate in the statewide summer theme. This support includes annual funding of \$12,000 to 60 public libraries, training and summer reading materials such as bookmarks, posters, stickers, and certificates.

For more information, contact your local public library or see the Colorado State Library Summer Reading resources at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/SummerReading/>

Commissioner Jones recently participated in a photo shoot with students from Colfax Elementary for National Library Week. To view the "READ" poster, visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/slpromo.htm>

**For more information, contact** Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, or Megan McDermott, 303-866-2334, in the CDE Office of Communications. To sign up for the CDE e-mail news service, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/index.html>.

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