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News Release

Colorado State Library Announces Summer Reading Grants

The Colorado State Library announced today that 73 public library sites will receive summer reading mini-grants. Each participating library site will receive \$200 towards the purchase of books for the library.

The State Library has been giving out the mini-grants since 2004. Library sites use the grant for books and materials to support their summer library programming and provide a local match of 25 percent of the grant.

For a list of libraries that received the grant visit:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/SummerReading/MiniGrantRecipients.htm>

Throughout June and July, children and teenagers across the state participate in Summer Reading Programs. The statewide summer reading theme for 2010 is "Make a Splash, READ!" The teen theme is "Make Waves @ your library."

The summer reading program includes weekly activities, new books on the annual theme, crafts and having fun in the library. Many children and teens set a reading goal of a book a week or 20 minutes of reading a day. Very young children participate by being read to by parents or siblings. Even adults get into the game and set their own goals for reading. In 2009, a total of 184,283 Colorado residents participated in summer reading programs in public libraries. Of these readers, there were 129,000 children, 40,188 teens and 15,095 adults.

Public libraries in the U.S have been promoting summer library programs since 1898. Studies show that reading regularly during the summer helps students to prevent "summer set-back" where students can lose reading gains from the previous school year.

For more information on summer reading programs or the mini-grants, contact Patricia Froehlich, youth services consultant for the Colorado State Library at froehlich_p@cde.state.co.us or 303-866-6908.

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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