



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Hugh T. Farley

## New York State Summer Reading Program Launched

HUGH T. FARLEY June 6, 2012



The New York State Library, teaming up with the more than 1,100 public libraries and neighborhood branches statewide, today announced the kick-off of "Summer Reading at New York Libraries," the 2012 New York State summer reading programs. Through these programs, young people will have the opportunity to access the vast resources of New York's public libraries to support their summer reading and to gain recognition for what they achieve.

Through participation in these programs young people can receive reading lists and participate in programs and activities at their local libraries. At the end of the program, participants receive formal recognition for their reading achievement.

According to New York State Library officials, last year's summer reading program featured the participation of 1.65 million young people statewide. It is the expressed hope of program coordinators at the New York State Library, Assembly and Senate that increased attention on the benefits of summer reading will result in expanded participation.

John B. King, Jr., Commissioner of Education and President of the University of the State of New York noted that summer reading programs enable young people to maintain educational advances when not in school. "The Regents and I believe reading in the summer provides tremendous support for students' progress toward college and career readiness. Summer reading programs provided at public libraries throughout the state - supported by the State Library in conjunction with our partners in the State Assembly and Senate – give children great tools to stay academically sharp for school in the fall," King said. For more information about the importance of summer reading go to

<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/research.htm>.

"I encourage families to use their libraries this summer," State Senator Hugh T. Farley (R, C, I - Schenectady), chair of the Senate's Select Committee on Libraries, said. "Reading is a fun activity that opens the mind to all sorts of adventures. As a former teacher, I try to promote reading and learning as much as possible. Parents have a very important responsibility in their children's growth and education. Studies have shown that children whose families are involved in their learning become higher achievers and learn more quickly than children whose families are not. It's a big responsibility, but it's not difficult to help your children learn. The best way is to encourage them to read. By using your library this summer, children will find an adventure on every shelf."

For an overview of Summer Reading at New York Libraries and additional information for educators, parents, and caregivers, go to <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer>.

Children, teens, parents, and caregivers can visit <http://summerreadingnys.org> for activities, games, links, information and ideas to keep children reading all summer.