



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patty Ritchie

## Ritchie Program Encourages Students To Make Libraries Their Winter Break Destination

JOHN FRIOT February 1, 2017



In an effort to promote literacy among young people, Senate Select Committee on Libraries Chair Senator Patty Ritchie is announcing a new program that encourages students to “check out” their local libraries over winter break.

Senator Ritchie’s “Make Libraries Your Winter Break Destination” program invites students in grades kindergarten through 8th to submit a one page essay or picture that depicts why they enjoy visiting their local library during February break.

“When young people pick up a book, they’re given an opportunity to let their imaginations take flight, and at the same time, build critically important reading skills,” said Senator Ritchie.

“Our local libraries are the perfect place for students to do just that, and I hope that through this program, students and their families will be encouraged to visit their library and make reading a part of their winter break plans.”

All participating students will receive a special certificate and bookmark from Senator Ritchie. Three winning entries—one each from Jefferson, Oswego and St. Lawrence Counties—will receive a special “book basket” filled with books and other educational materials.

Entries must be received by February 28th and can be sent via email to [ritchie@nysenate.gov](mailto:ritchie@nysenate.gov) or mailed to the following address:

*Office of State Senator Patty Ritchie*

*317 Washington St.*

*Watertown, NY 13601*

All submissions must be accompanied by a program registration form, which is available for download by clicking on the PDF link at the top of the page or can be mailed to participants by calling (315) 782-3418.