

Summer Reading 2018 Reading Takes you Everywhere!

This year, the "everywhere" included virtual reality! The summer activities included games, plugged and unplugged. E.P. Foster Library offered Oculus Rift Virtual Reality for teens. Other gaming systems, including the Wii U, were offered for younger kids. Board games were available for those who prefer to be unplugged.

At Saticoy Library kids could unwind over a game of basketball or become a Guitar Hero. At Avenue, they could build a world in Minecraft, and at Hill Road, the chess club convened.



The Summer Reading Program Shows kicked off with the Nifty Balloon Show making a tour of all four branches, followed by Reptiles and Raptors and Puppets! Oh my! Not to mention musicians, magicians and Polynesian dancers!



In the Ventura Region, which encompasses Avenue, E.P. Foster, Hill Road and Saticoy libraries, the attendance at events totaled 5755. This is a 42% increase over last year!



In the picture to the left, a tiny LED light becomes the focal point of a scratch art drawing. This was one of the STEAM activities where kids built the circuit that powers the light using copper foil tape and a lithium coin battery.

STEAM stands for " Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math" -- a way of learning to integrate knowledge across disciplines and to think in a more connected and holistic way. The imagination is awakened and engineering skills honed with STEAM activities offered at all branches. Other STEAM projects included building rockets, oil & water lava lamps and origami.

The main event was, of course, READING. Early literacy classes for children 0 - 5 continued throughout the summer.

Older kids registered online for the Summer Reading Challenge and recorded the number of minutes they had read over the summer. Among the four library branches, 819 kids and teens registered, a 25% increase in participation over last year. For every 100 minutes, their name was entered into the grand prize drawing. Reading 1,000 minutes over the summer was encouraged. When 500 minutes was recorded, the reader earned a free book to add to his or her own library. 169 eager readers reached that goal.

Teen volunteers gained community service credits for school as they registered kids for the Summer Reading Program, prepared craft and program materials and supported library events. Among the four branches, there were 48 teen volunteers contributing 891 volunteer hours to the great success of the Summer Reading Program!

Keep updated at www.venturafriendsofthelibrary.org and at our Facebook page

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