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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Summer at the Library: Interesting. Affordable. Fun!

When you're looking for something fun and affordable to do with your kids this summer, turn to TRL, the Timberland Regional Library system. Summer at TRL branches begins in mid-June when schools let out. Children from infancy to age 18 and their parents and caregivers can pick up summer program packets including schedules of free events and activities, prize tickets, reading logs and booklists. (Last summer, 13,850 packets were picked up and 43,670 youth participated in library summer programs as well as events outside the library.)

The 2011 summer program theme, "[One World, Many Stories](#)," will take children and families on an imagination vacation to other countries and continents as they explore lands and cultures around the world through story, art, music, interactive presentations, activities and humor. With this summer's new booklist, "Children Read around the World," in hand, kids can travel to every continent on the globe. "No passport required. Leave your money at home. Just bring your sense of adventure," said TRL's Youth Services Coordinator, Ellen Duffy.

Summer performances and events

An array of special presentations covers the world this year including these programs:

- Games & Sports around the World, with Scott "Mag" Hughes of W.E. C.A.R.E Sports
- Going Global Comedy & Stunts with Alex Zerbe
- Tall Tales from a Small Planet with Harmonica Pocket
- Heart and Soul of Mexico, music, humor, and Spanish language with Mariachi Mexico
- Asian folktales, plays enacted by the exquisite Mary Shaver Marionettes
- The Tasty Tale of Brave Sir Bump, a Zambini Brothers puppet play
- World Storytelling Safari with the Tales & Trails Storytellers
- Magic around the World with Jeff Evans
- One World, Many Stories with Buck & Elizabeth

Even the smallest Timberland library will host at least two of these special performances. Most will offer more, sponsored by Friends of the Library groups and other local organizations. Libraries will also have programs such as African safaris with stories, songs, acting and crafts for the whole family; scavenger hunts, story times; guessing jar contests; "wacky days" when children are asked to discover three odd things in the library for small prizes; and "Wacky World Art Days" arts, crafts and activities.

All Timberland library programs are free of charge. Children throughout the five counties in the regional library system—Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, and Thurston counties—are welcome to attend programs at any of the 27 branch libraries. Check www.TRL.org for program details.

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Summer at the library for teens

The theme for teens this year is “[You Are Here](#),” so teen events and activities will focus on where that might be! “Here” may be India and Pakistan with “Bollywood Backstage Pass,” a program of South Asian film clips, arts, crafts, and pastimes. “Here” may be on a beach in Hawaii or in Japan for some Japanese pop culture, with “Japan Culture Club.” “Here” may even be the landscape of one’s own personality, to be explored through art, writing, gaming and quizzes. And, as always, “Here” can be the library, where teens can read books and magazines, create, meet with friends, and talk with library staff.

“Here” will also be online at www.TRL.org/teens where teens can download audiobooks, eBooks and music, recommend a book, find new books, explore websites, and visit the new [TRL Teen Facebook](#) page launching in mid-June.

Also new on the teen web page this summer will be a link to BookCrossing, a website that tracks books all over the world as they change hands. Teens can register a book they own and leave it in a public place to be picked up and read by another, who then does likewise. Currently 932,730 “Book Crossers” are following over 8 million books travelling throughout 132 countries. www.bookcrossing.com

Prizes

Children and teens who participate in the TRL summer program will have opportunities to receive prizes, which can include coupons from area attractions and businesses, books, and other items donated by local organizations, businesses, and Friends of the Library groups.

For parents, educators and caregivers

Enjoyment boosts learning. TRL wants to help parents keep their children active, interested and learning all summer long. The library’s summer program offers children engaging and fun-filled learning experiences and amazing reading opportunities.

By participating in library programs with their parents, infants and pre-readers develop a love of books and learning. They also build early language skills such as listening, developing vocabulary and learning how sounds communicate.

Study after study substantiates the advantages to schoolchildren of participating in libraries’ summer reading programs. Instead of losing one to three months in reading achievement, children make gains. www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/research.htm

By reading books and magazines of their own choosing, teens and children expand reading skills and enrich the content of their knowledge. By participating in library activities, performances and story programs, children learn by watching, listening, responding, creating, and discovering.

Complete information about summer at the library, including programs, will be available in early June at local libraries and online at www.TRL.org.