



TO: Chair and Members of the Library Advisory Commission

SUBMITTED BY: JoAnne Plummer, Neighborhood Services Director

PREPARED BY: Elizabeth Saucedo, City Librarian
Kaeley Christensen, Children's Librarian

SUBJECT: 2026 Summer Reading Program Overview

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive a presentation from the Children's Librarian about the 2026 Summer Reading Program, with updates on outreach, events, participation, incentives, and partnerships.

DISCUSSION:

Annual summer reading programs are held at libraries worldwide to encourage reading while many children and teens are between school years. These programs serve as critical support in preventing learning loss and preparing young learners for academic and lifelong success. Many programs offer reading incentives to encourage participants of all ages to reach their reading goals. Engaging programming offers free opportunities for community members to maintain social connections and develop new skills and interests.

The following presentation outlines the 2026 Summer Reading Program, which runs from June 1st to July 31st at the Goleta & Santa Ynez Valley Libraries. This year's original theme – *Summer Read-a-Palooza 2026* – celebrates reading as an essential habit and fosters enriching experiences and community connections through lively all-ages programming.

Review By:

Elizabeth Saucedo
City Librarian

Approved By:

JoAnne Plummer
Neighborhood Services Director

ATTACHMENT:

1. 2026 Summer Reading Program Overview PowerPoint Presentation

Attachment 1

2026 Summer Reading Program Overview PowerPoint Presentation

2026 Summer Reading Program Overview

Library Advisory Commission

June 1, 2026

Presented by:

Kaeley Christensen, Children's Librarian



Summer Reading Program Video

- ❖ This year, the Library Division worked with the Community Relations Division to create our first-ever Summer Reading Program video!
- ❖ Local videographer Paul Westmacott captured an inviting highlight of our services as well as helpful tips to help patrons find our GVL Express Library



[Click to watch our Summer Reading video!](#)

Overview Topics

- ❖ The Why of Summer Reading
- ❖ Past Programs
- ❖ Summer Read-a-Palooza 2026
- ❖ Programs and Events
- ❖ Reading Incentives
- ❖ Outreach
- ❖ Teen Volunteers
- ❖ Sponsors



The Why of Summer Reading

- Fosters reading as a lifelong habit
- Prevents “Summer Slide” by promoting literacy between school years
- Keeps the mind active and engaged
- Reading is free entertainment
- Programming provides free, social activities
- Builds positive associations with reading and libraries
- Reaching goals improves self-confidence
- Creates community connections
- Generously donated prize incentives from local businesses and organizations create community engagement



Past Programs

- The Goleta & Santa Ynez Valley Libraries have run Summer Reading Programs for decades
- Last year, the program occurred during Goleta Valley Library's move into GVL Express
 - Prize distribution and special programs were provided at the Goleta Community Center
- Buellton Library held programs at their new library and booked performers for the first time in the indoor/outdoor spaces
- Solvang Library saw "standing room only" attendance at many of their shows
- Overall, a success!



Mahni's Reptiles, Hula Anyone, Claw Machine, and Silent Disco

Summer Read-A-Palooza 2026

- **Theme:** Original theme expands marketing and programming possibilities
- **Dates:** June 1st to July 31st (longer program aligns with many school schedules)
- **Who:** Readers of all ages can participate in the program!
- **How:** Participants must log at least four days of reading per week via Beanstack or paper forms
- **Prizes:** Prizes vary by location!
 - At GVL Express, children 12 and under receive a token to play the claw machine
 - At Buellton and Solvang, participants receive a weekly mystery goody bag
 - All Libraries: Prize drawings include gift certificates and special prizes provided by Friends of the Library groups at each library plus many generous community sponsors
- **New!** Participants earn extra entries to the prize drawings for every five activities they complete at each of our library locations



Summer Read-A-Palooza 2026



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1 SUMMER READING BEGINS!	2	3	4	5	6 KICK-OFF EVENT!
7 SKATE FREE WITH YOUR LIBRARY CARD ICE IN PARADISE	8	9	10	11	12	13 BEACH BOOK CLUB
14	15	16	17 MEET ME IN OLD TOWN	18 FRIENDSHIP BRACELET CRAFT	19 LIBRARY CLOSED Juneteenth	20
21	22	23 BEACH BOOK CLUB	24 MAHNI'S REPTILES MEET ME IN OLD TOWN	25	26	27

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
28	29	30 	1	2 TIE-DYE CRAFT	3	4 LIBRARY CLOSED Independence Day DRONE SHOW!
5 SKATE FREE WITH YOUR LIBRARY CARD ICE IN PARADISE	6	7 SCIENCE HEROES SHOW	8	9	10	11
12 BEACH BOOK CLUB	13	14 MUSIC AT THE RANCH	15	16	17	18 HULA ANYONE SHOW
19	20 	21 MUSIC AT THE RANCH	22	23 BEACH BOOK CLUB	24	25
26	27	28 MUSIC AT THE RANCH	29	30	31 SUMMER READING ENDS!	

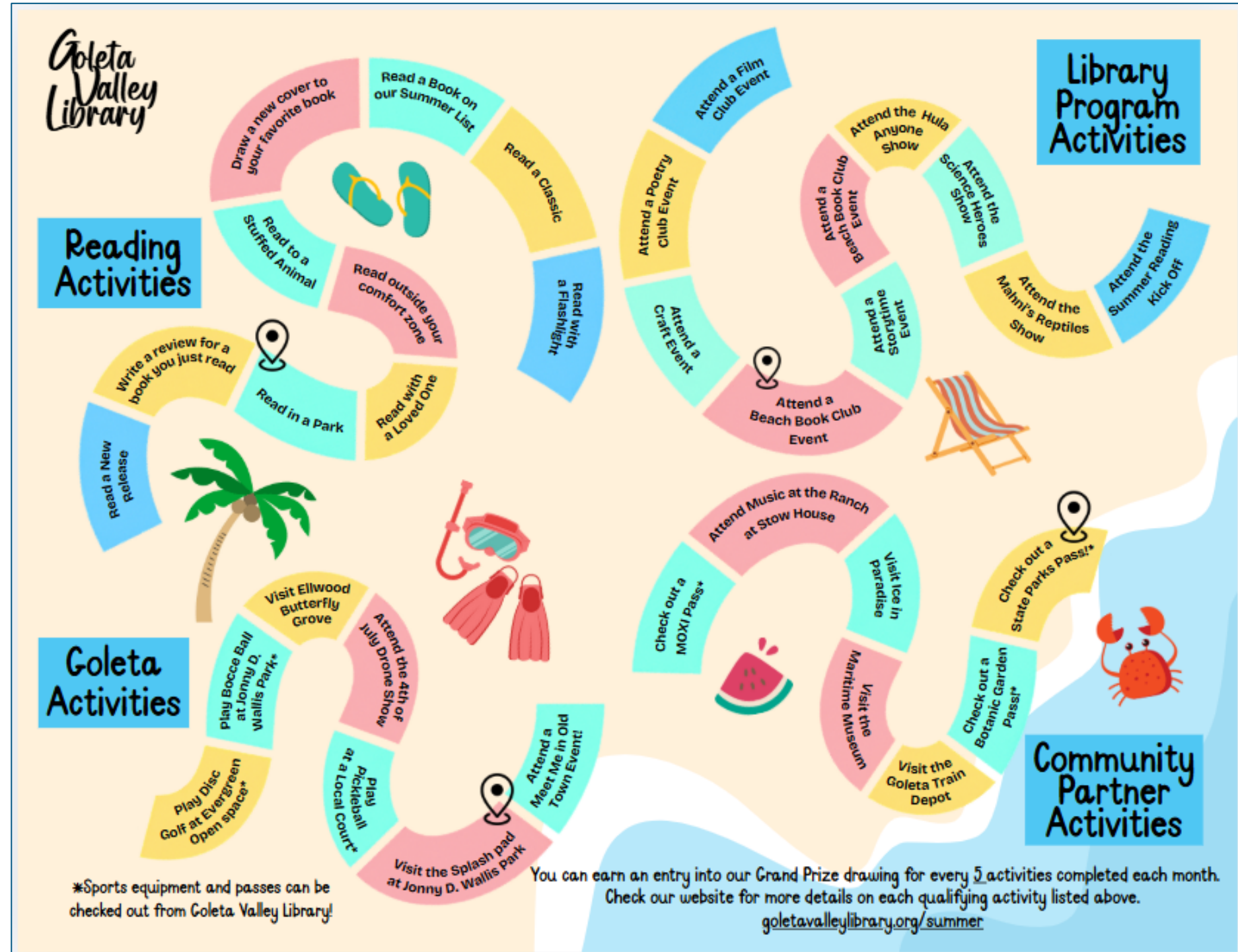
HOW IT WORKS

- ★ Program runs from June 1 - July 31 - 9 Weeks this Year!
- ★ Log your reading 4 days per week to earn tokens to the Claw Machine AND tickets to our Grand Prize Drawings.
- ★ Participate in fun activities each month at home and around town to earn even more tickets into our Grand Prize Drawings!
- ★ Use our paper reading logs or the Beanstack App to track all your reading, activities and tickets.

www.goletavalleylibrary.beanstack.com
or scan the QR code:



Go to:
www.goletavalleylibrary.org/summer for all program details and calendar of events



Program Flyer with Instructions and Calendar

Goleta Valley Library Activity Map

Programs and Events

- Programming at each library includes staff-led programs and special events with hired performers!
- At GVL Express: Registration and prize pickup
 - Teen volunteers
 - Claw machine for kids 12 and under
 - Teen and Adult categories participation
- Offsite: Programs and Events
 - **Goleta Community Center:** Kick-Off Event, Mahni's Reptiles Show, Teen Craft Workshop, Science Heroes Program, Hula Anyone Show
 - **Goleta Beach Park:** Twice-monthly Beach Book Clubs
- Buellton & Solvang Libraries
 - Registration and prize pick-up for all ages
 - Concerts, Reptile Shows, Movie Screenings + more!



Summer
READ-A-PALOOZA

MAHNI'S REPTILES



24 JUNE
11:00AM - 12:00PM

SLINKY, SCALY,
& NOT SO SLIMY!
FOR ALL AGES

GOLETA VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER
5679 HOLLISTER AVE.
GOLETA, CA 93117

Reading Incentives

- Weekly prizes are earned after reading at least four days per week, and include coupons and passes to local businesses, Friends of the Library “Book Bucks”, fun rewards like bouncy balls and mini magnifiers, pencils, bookmarks, and more!
- Weekly and grand prize drawings for all ages include book bundles, gift certificates, memberships, games, puzzles, toys – and even tech such as eReaders and cameras!
- All incentives are made possible through very generous community sponsors



Outreach



Children's Librarian presenting at Mountain View Elementary school-wide assembly

- In late Spring, contacts are made with schools throughout Santa Barbara County Library Zone 4 to promote the program
- Visits include assemblies, classroom visits, and presentations
- Flyers are distributed in English and Spanish via ParentSquare
- Social media posts, website creation, press releases, printed flyers, and word of mouth help generate awareness and excitement

Teen Volunteers

- Teen volunteers are scheduled during open hours to provide registration and prize redemption support to all participants 12 and under (and often their families too)
- This provides community service opportunities for local teens between the ages of 14-17
 - Volunteering helps teens build resumes, gain early job skills, get involved, and strengthen college applications. Letters of recommendation are available by request.
- In 2025, teens volunteers 516 hours during the summer!
- So far, over 40 teens have attended a 1-hour orientation session and are scheduled for the 2026 program



Thank you to our amazing teen volunteers! Let the fun begin!

Thank You to Our Local Sponsors!



Friends of Goleta Valley Library



All: Birkholm's Bakery & Café, Blenders in the Grass, Bob's Well Bread, The Book Loft, Brick Barn Wine Estate, California Nature Art Museum, Coffee House by Chomp, Community Clay Works, The Creation Station Fabric & Quilt Shop, Deckers Brands, Drover's Doughnuts, Enjoy Bagels & Sweets, Friends of the Buellton Library, Friends of Goleta Valley Library, Friends of the Library of the Santa Ynez Valley, Goleta Valley Athletic Club, Habit Burger & Grill, The Home Connection, Ice in Paradise, Industrial Eats, Ingeborg's Danish Chocolates, Jersey Mike's, Kaena Wine Co., Kona Ice, Lefty's Coffee, Los Olivos, MOXI, the Wolf Museum of Exploration & Innovation, Mystic Merchant, Nana Thai, New Frontiers Natural Marketplace, Olsen's Danish Village Bakery, Rori's Artisanal Creamery, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History & Sea Center, Santa Barbara Zoo, Santa Ynez Valley Historical Museum & Parks-Janeway Carriage House, Solvang Bakery, Solvang Ultimate Escape Rooms, South Coast Deli, South Coast Montessori, South Coast Railroad Museum, Stuart C. Gildred Family YMCA, Subway (#5776), Valley Hardware and Garden Center, Woodstock's Pizza, and Yogurtland.

Questions