



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contra Costa County Library

(925) 608-7700

Contra Costa County Library celebrates outer space with Summer Reading 2019

The Contra Costa County Library is launching into Summer Reading on Saturday, June 8. The program is the Library's yearly effort to keep kids reading during the summer months, preventing "brain drain."

This year's theme is "Take Me to Your Reader" and celebrates everything about outer space in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Apollo missions. The Apollo missions included the first moon landing, which occurred on July 20, 1969. To mark this important accomplishment in space history, Summer Reading will include programming, experiments and challenges all with outer space in mind.

Special programming will include:

- NASA Astronaut Dan Bursch, veteran of four space flights, talking about his experiences on the International Space Station
- Dr. Pascal Lee, Director of the Mars Institute, sharing his knowledge and experiences in planning future human missions to Mars
- Exploration Stations which include fun activities, hands-on experiments and demonstrations

"Contra Costa's summer reading program will keep lower income students from falling further behind during the summer," said John Gioia, Contra Costa County Board Chair. "Research shows that students from disadvantaged backgrounds experience "summer learning loss" and often start the new school year with achievement levels lower than where they were at the beginning of summer. We don't want that to happen."

For babies, the pre-reading program is meant to encourage early literacy practices in families while the baby's brain is still in a critical developmental phase. Summer Reading also includes activities, programming and challenges for teens and adults.

Readers of all ages can participate online or use a paper reading passport. Completed passports or online completion certificates should be returned to one of the 26 Contra Costa County Library branches by Thursday, August 8. All finishers will receive a book and be entered into a drawing to win prizes.

Drawing prizes include: Oakland Athletics tickets, San Francisco Giants tickets, Six Flags Discovery Kingdom passes, Oakland Zoo passes, LEGO NASA set, Celestron telescope and more.

Summer Reading runs from Saturday, June 8 to Thursday, August 8.

For more information on Summer Reading including a list of prizes, experiments, and events, visit your local Contra Costa County Library branch or ccclib.org/summer.

For media with questions, please contact Public Information Officer Brooke Converse at bconvers@ccclib.org or (925) 608-7713.