



San Diego Public Library
Summer Reading Program 2008

Executive Summary



A young reader completes her "Catch the Reading Bug" coloring sheet.

Photo by Lowell Waxman.



Story time at the North University Community Branch Library fascinates this young girl.

Photo by Lowell Waxman.

The San Diego Public Library's Summer Reading Program spread the *Reading Bug*, with an insect theme for 2008. A record number of young and teen readers met their reading goals this past summer—reading ten or more books. The summer reading program is offered at City Libraries from mid June through mid August and builds recreational reading among preschoolers, children and teens. The program offers incentives for children to improve reading skills during summer break.

"I've been bringing my kids for about 13 years, and all the kids I've watched there really enjoy the programs."

--Parent at North Clairemont Branch Library

- A total of 25,972 children and teens signed up at a Library branches to participate in 2008.
- More than 13,000 youngsters met their reading goals of reading ten or more books (ten hours for teens). This is a record number and a six percent increase over last summer and more than 17 percent higher than two summers ago.
- San Diego Public Libraries held more than 1,100 Summer Reading events at all 36 branches this summer. These events included cultural and educational programs story times and magic and puppet shows. This was a 17 percent increase in the number of Summer Reading events in 2007. More than 48,000 children and adults attended these events.

"Providing incentives was a great way to encourage my son to pick up books this summer."

--Parent of a Rancho Peñasquitos Branch Library participant

This summer, the Library surveyed parents of children completing the program. These surveys revealed that:

- Most participating youngsters read far more than 10

books during the summer.

- Of the 289 parents responding, more than 82 percent said their child finished more than 15 books during the summer.
- 92 percent of respondents said the program helped their child improve or maintain his or her reading skills.

The Library and Foundation thank their partners for providing incentives that encouraged thousands of San Diego youngsters to read this summer. **The San Diego Zoo, The San Diego Natural History Museum, Legoland, The Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, Feld Entertainment and Sammy's Woodfired Pizza** provided incentives for youngsters completing the program.



*Two young "bugs" participate in an activity at a branch library.
Photo by Lowell Waxman.*



"What great fun and what a great program!"
*--Parent of a Serra Mesa-Kearny
Mesa Branch Library participant*