



**DISCOVER**

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May 14, 2025

For Immediate Release

## EVPL ANNOUNCES 'OUR SUMMER: BUILDING TOGETHER' SUMMER READING CELEBRATION

*Kickoff celebrations planned for Thursday, May 29*

Evansville, IN – Each summer, thousands of readers participate in EVPL's summer reading celebration. This year's theme, [Our Summer: Building Together](#), invites our community to read and reflect on new and old stories, connect with others through programs and events, and enjoy activities to help build a fun and meaningful summer.

The program will begin May 29 with kickoff celebrations at five EVPL locations: [EVPL Central](#) and [EVPL Red Bank](#) from 10 a.m. – noon, [EVPL Oaklyn](#) or [EVPL McCollough](#) from 2-4 p.m., and [EVPL North Park](#) from 5:30-7 p.m. However, those who wish to participate can sign up at any location May 29 through July 31, when the program ends.

"Throughout 2025, EVPL is observing the theme of building," said Erika Qualls Barnett, Director of Programming and Outreach, EVPL. "Programs during Our Summer will have a building theme, whether it's literal—such as Lego and block-themed parties—or more in the spirit of building fun, reading, and community into these summer months."

When someone signs up for Our Summer: Building Together at an EVPL location, they'll receive registration prizes, a bilingual logbook, and instructions. Participants can also participate digitally by registering and tracking books through [EVPL's Beanstack app](#).

Registrants will receive individual prizes at midpoint and completion (while supplies last) and can earn entries for one of several grand prizes for each of the five age groups. Prize entries may also be earned by participating in library programs and other activities during the summer.

Reading has been proven to be beneficial to people in every stage of life. For young children, reading helps develop early language skills and imagination, and it's also a way to bond with caregivers. School-age children can build on the skills they learned during the school year, and research has shown that reading just 4-6 books over the summer can prevent a decline in reading scores from spring to fall. And for all ages, reading has been proven to increase empathy for others, as well as improve concentration and memory, reduce stress, and improve sleep.

All reading counts for Our Summer. Children, teens, and adults can read on their own, read with someone else, listen to an audiobook, or read an e-book.

More details about Our Summer: Building Together can be found at [evpl.org/oursummer2025](http://evpl.org/oursummer2025)

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