



ILA Noon Network January 29, 2024



Looking Ahead to 2026



2026 Chair

Ellen Fitzgerald

Naperville Public Library



Broad Thematic Areas

Our broad theme for 2026 is Farm to Table

Vision Statement for iREAD 2026: Farm to Table

Farm to Table is about creation and connection. A farm grows food that nourishes our bodies; a library grows ideas that nourish our minds. Both food and stories connect us to our family, culture, economy, and ecology. iREAD 2026: Farm to Table will provide a context for exploring culture, history, science, health, and human connection.

Criteria for Theme

The theme is to:

- Be universal in promoting reading
- Be focused in interpretation
- Be dynamic and imply action
- Be appropriate for all genders
- Include the word “book,” “read,” or “library” (or related)
- Lend itself to strong graphic interpretation
- Have appeal to pre-K–8 students, YA students and adults, and library staff

Our theme for iRead 2026



**Plant a Seed,
Read!**

Looking ahead to 2025



2025 Chair

Maisie Iven

Naperville Public Library

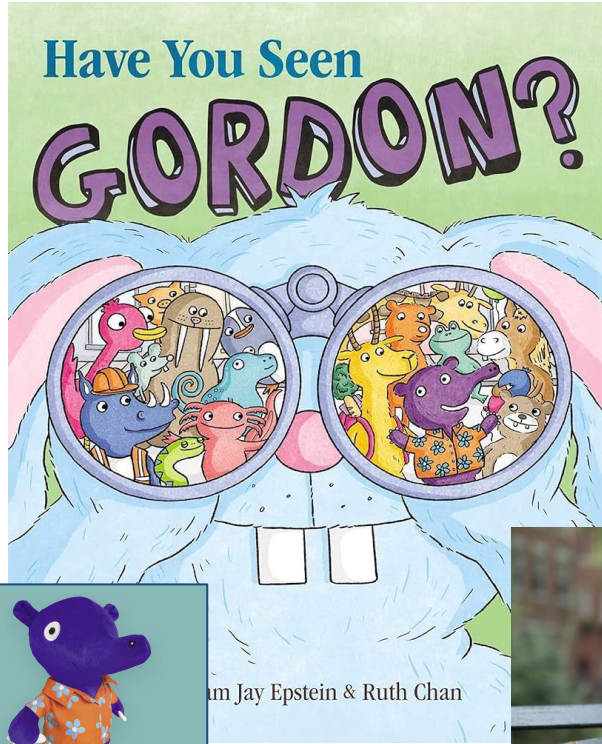


**Summer 2025:
Level Up at Your Library**

2025 Mission Statement

Play is one of the ways we learn to relate to others, to think in new ways, and to foster friendships, new and old. *Level Up at Your Library* is an all ages summer reading program based around puzzles and games. Whether you're playing with STEM concepts or gamifying your reading logs, learning to play chess or how to code video games, iREAD 2025: *Level Up at Your Library* reminds us that libraries are not just a space for knowledge, they are a space for fun!

Featured Artists



Ruth Chan

Have You Seen Gordon?

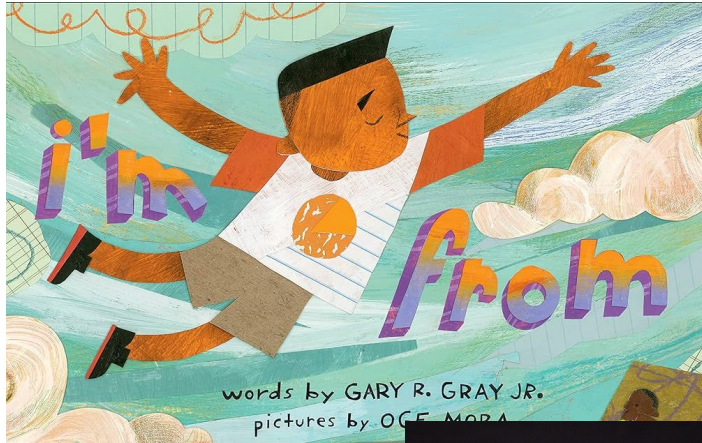
Words by Adam Jay Epstein

Illustrated by Ruth Chan

(Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers,
2021)



Featured Artists



Oge Mora

I'm From

Words by Gary R. Gray Jr.

Illustrated by Oge Mora

(Balzer + Bray, 2023)



Featured Artists



Carey Pietsch

The Adventure Zone: Here There Be Gerblins

Words by Clint McElroy

Illustrated by Carey Pietsch

(First Second, 2018)



Resource Guide

- The heart of the program
- By librarians, for librarians
- Suggestions, ideas, bibliographies, scripts
- Reproducible artwork—use in perpetuity
- Transparent criteria for theme and graphics



iREAD 2024

Read, Renew, Repeat

Gretchen Schulz, Aurora Public
Library District,
2024 Chair





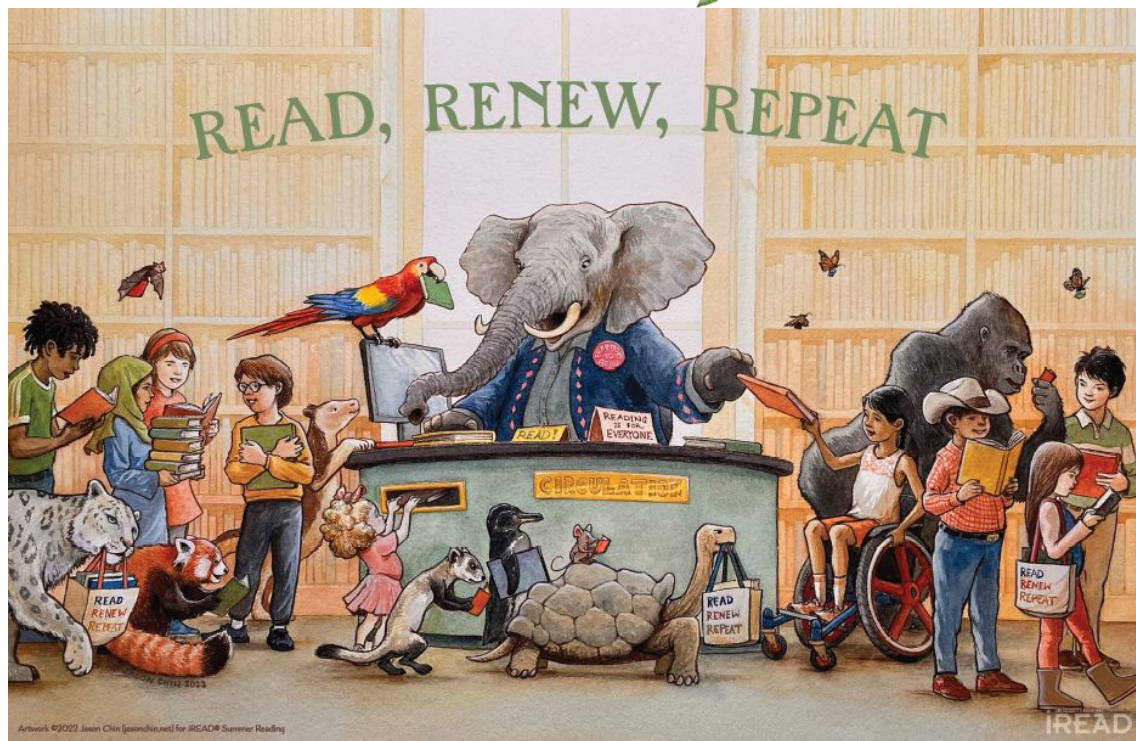
2024 Mission Statement

Designed for all ages, our summer reading program will feature the idea of conservation. Conservation as a movement focuses on protecting species from extinction, maintaining and restoring habitats, enhancing ecosystem services, and protecting biological diversity. iREAD 2024: *Read, Renew, Repeat* makes for a wonderfully diversified summer reading program that encourages reading as a restorative method of self-improvement and self-preservation.

iREAD[®] READING PROGRAMS



Holly Bradley
Freelance artist



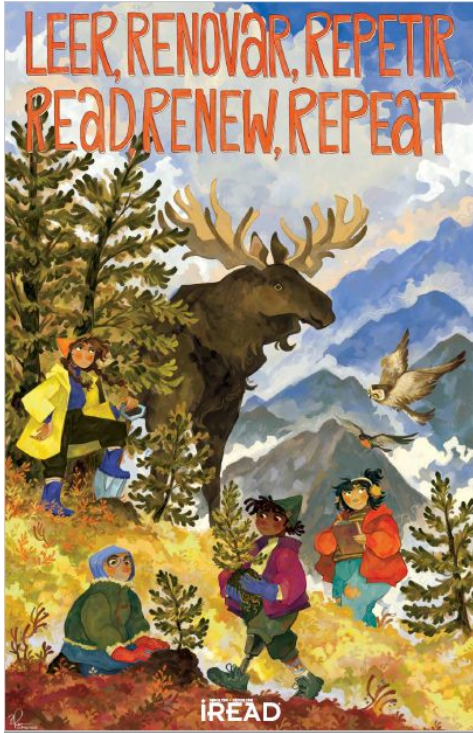
Jason Chin

2022 Randolph Caldecott Medal
Winner
of

Watercress

by Andrea Wang
(Neal Porter Books, 2021)

2022 (John) Newbery Medal
Honor



Zoe Persico

Children's Book Illustrator

iREAD[®] READING PROGRAMS



James Stanley
*Freelance graphic
artist*

iREAD[®] READING PROGRAMS



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High-Quality, Low-Cost Resources and Products to Promote Reading



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READ, RENEW, REPEAT

iREAD Summer Reading
ireadprogram.org

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BY LIBRARIANS FOR LIBRARIANS



iREAD[®] READING PROGRAMS



Featured
T-Shirt



Bamboo Stem Water
Bottle with Strainer



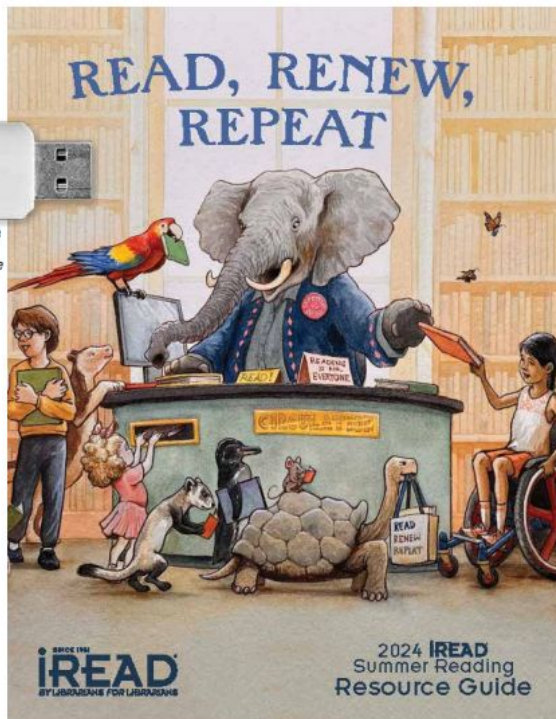
Crab
Headband
Craft Kit

iREAD[®] READING PROGRAMS





24-701 Resource Guide
Printed book
plus Flash Drive



Resource Guide

iREAD[®] READING PROGRAMS





Social Media: Connect With Us!

Facebook: **iREAD Program**

Facebook Public Group: **iREAD 2024: Read, Renew, Repeat**

Instagram: **@ireadprogram**

Newsletter: **www.ireadprogram.org/**

Pinterest: **@ireadprogram**

X: **@iREADprogram**



Public Service Announcement



CHILDREN



Presented by:
Erin Emerick
Schaumburg Township District Library

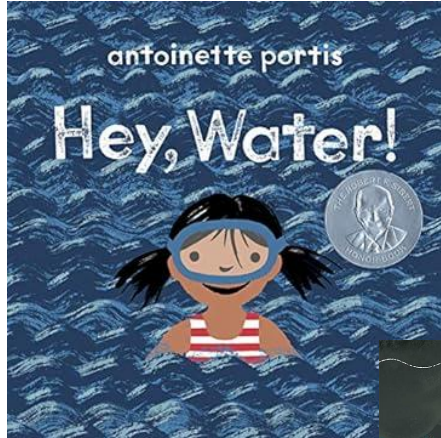


Exploring Animal Habitats

- Habitats Pretend & Play
 - Nest
 - Farm
 - Garden/Park/Forest
 - Cave
 - Ocean/Pond/River
 - Desert
 - Arctic
- Animal Habitat Passive Program
 - Decorate a paper animal shape
 - Create a habitat/home for it using building materials



Storytime Science



- Wonderful Water
 - *Hey Water!* by Antoinette Portis
 - Stations
 - Sink or Float
 - Ocean Cleanup Sensory Bin
 - Crayon & Watercolor Writing Activity
 - Bubble Wands
- Bats
 - *Fiona the Fruit Bat* by Dan Riskin
 - Activities
 - “Bats are Sleeping” rhyme
 - Coffee filter bats
 - Echolocation activities

Our Wind Farm

- A craft that also makes a great display!
- Read about and discuss renewable and non-renewable energy.



<https://pin.it/3KtBCmw>

Dissecting Owl Pellets



<https://pellet.com/>

- Find clues to what animal the owl ate. With careful dissection, the bones of the prey animal(s) can be laid out to form a partial skeleton.
- Partner with wildlife educator or 4H club. Bring in live owls.
- Resources
 - [Carolina Knowledge Center website](#)
 - [Pellet.com](#)
 - [Carolina Biological Supply Company](#)

Fun with Boxes!

- Build it, Break it, Create it
 - Provide a variety of boxes, cardboard pieces, tubes, egg cartons, and other recycled materials for open-ended construction.
 - Turn a large box into a car or boat.
 - Create a cardboard town.
 - Challenge kids to build the strongest bridge or the tallest tower.
- Pizza Box Mazes
 - Hexbugs or marbles
 - Wiki Stix
 - Tape
 - Bendable straws



<https://popgoesthepage.princeton.edu/la-cucara/cha/>

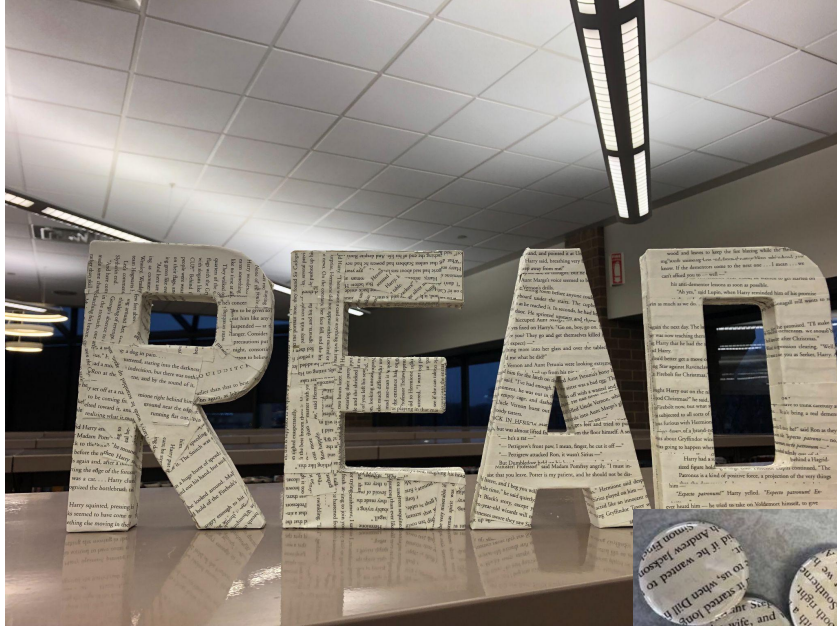
TEEN



Presented by:
Maisie Iven
Naperville Public Library



Book Page Collage!



- Upcycle damaged books to create a unique piece of art!
- Great for Make & Takes!
- Fun way to have teen volunteers create decorations for your Summer Reading Program!
- Also great for button making and other crafts!



Fidget Bracelets & Keychains!

- Quiet, fun, wearable relaxation!
- Capture the fidget trend!
- Can be a great Make & Take, Drop-In Craft, or Craft Program!



Nature Photography Contest!



- Encourage teens to express themselves and get outside!
- Tie it in to photography programs or technology programs!
- Can have summer long prompts or weekly prompts!
- Displaying winners can be a fun way to highlight teen art in your library!
- Time-flexible for busy teens!

Upcycled Toy Planters!

- Great way to get second life out of toys on last legs!
- Gives teens a lot of flexibility in design while still being focused enough for folks with craft-anxiety!
- Can be creepy or not—works great for Halloween as well!
- Fun way to introduce plant care!



Spa Day



- Encourage self care practice with supplies like face masks, relaxing music, and more!
- Great way to integrate self care crafts like bath bombs and lip scrubs!
- An especially great way to celebrate the end of the school year and the kick off of summer!

ADULT



Presented by:
Jessica Banko
Plainfield Area Public Library



DIY Paper

Paper made can be used for additional craft projects like bullet journaling and book page collages.



<https://www.instructables.com/Homemade-Paper/>

Hydroponics Gardening



Grow plants without soil! This activity is a lesson in gardening, food development and recycling.

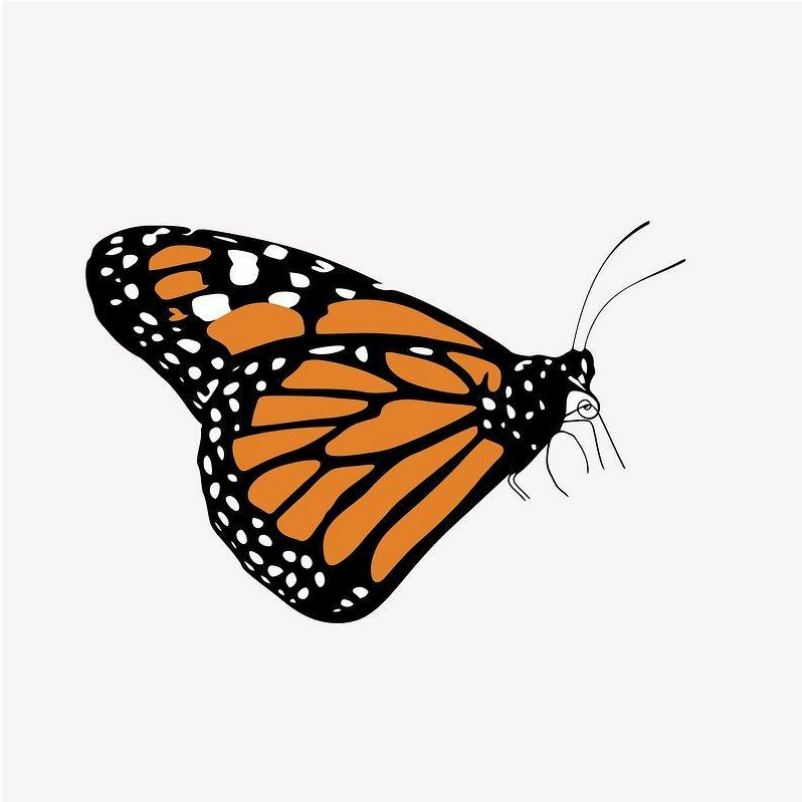
- Growing mediums like coconut coir may look like soil but they lack the nutrients soil has for plants to grow. This is why it's important to add nutrients to the water the plant will be using.
- Lettuce, spinach, and basil are good starting plants for this type of gardening. Plants will need regular pruning so they don't outgrow the bottle they live in.

Puzzle Piece Canvas Art



Not sure what to do with your old puzzles? Recycle it into beautiful tree wall art!

Read, Renew, Repeat Game Night



Have a Read, Renew, Repeat game night at your library with thematic board games.



Therapy Dog Fun

What better way to relax and renew than taking comfort with a therapy dog? Many local organizations have therapy dogs who come out for special events.

Organizations to reach out to for therapy dogs:

- Therapy Dogs International: tdi-dog.org/
- PAWS for Reading:
pawsforpeople.org/paws-for-reading/
- Tail Waggin' Tutors (TDI):
tdi-dog.org/OurPrograms.aspx?Page=Children+Reading+to+Dogs



All Ages



Presented by:

Ellen Fitzgerald

Naperville Public Library



Beekeeper Visit/Presentation

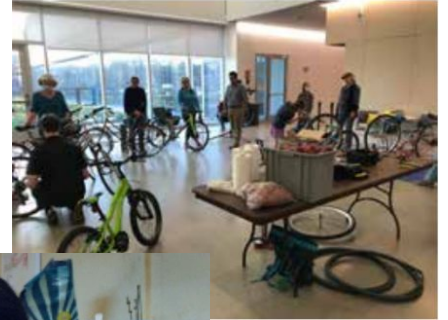


Invite a local beekeeper to give a presentation about beekeeping. Learn about the life cycle of bees, what they produce, and the many benefits of beekeeping. Discover how bees help the environment through pollination.

Get Your Bike Ready for Summer Workshop

Partner with a local bike shop that will teach participants how to:

- clean and lubricate bike chains and drivetrains.
- find the ideal tire pressure and how to use an air pump.
- check the brakes (tension, brake pads, etc.)
- adjust the seat.
- inspect bolts, nuts, and screws to make sure they are clean and tightened.



Host a Temporary StoryWalk®

Incorporate a StoryWalk inside or outside your library, at a local park, or along a community walking trail. Encourage families, community daycares, local scout troops, patrons, and park visitors to enjoy your story this summer.



Screen-Free Week at Your Library

Encourage folks to use less energy by spending less time on their devices. Offer a variety of activities throughout the week to encourage patrons of all ages to go Screen-free.

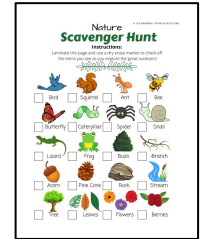
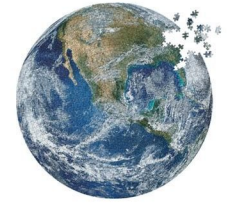
Monday: Card Games and Puzzles

Tuesday: Paper Crafts (with recycled paper)

Wednesday: Get Outside Nature Scavenger Hunt

Thursday: Volunteer for a Cause

Friday: Fun Day



Family STEM2Gether

In the program teen volunteers lead a variety of STEAM activities for Families. This is a great way to get Teens some leadership experience and to engage entire families.

Mission: Save Fred

Fred must climb across the longest bridge made out recycled materials

He must survive being submerged underwater and dropped from great heights.



Outreach

Presented by:

Kara DeCarlo

Orland Park Public Library



Community Clean Up Day!



- Partner with Park District, Forest Preserve, or School District
- Offer service hours to teens
- Provide “clean up kits” for patrons to clean up their communities on their own time
- Add it to your Summer Reading BINGO

Endangered Animal Scavenger Hunt

Read, Renew, Repeat—Endangered Animals

Scavenger Hunt Checklist

Check off each animal (or human) as you find it!

My Name _____
Date _____
Library _____

Tern and Penguin 

Snow Leopard 

Mountain Gorilla 

Scarlet Macaw 

Black-Footed Ferret 

Goodfellow's Tree Kangaroo 

Little Brown Bat 


ENDANGERED ANIMALS SCAVENGER HUNT

TERN AND PENGUIN

There are about 40 different types, or species, of terns. Terns are seabirds that are found all over the world. The Chinese crested tern is in danger of becoming extinct. There are three other types of terns that are also endangered.

Penguins have wings but they cannot fly. Their wings help them "fly" underwater! In fact, some penguins can swim 15 to 25 miles per hour! There are 18 different types of penguins. Half of those are in danger.

● *Can you fly like a tern? Swim like a penguin?*



Artwork ©2002 by Jason Chin for HEBOT Summer Reading.


ENDANGERED ANIMALS SCAVENGER HUNT

GOODFELLOW'S TREE KANGAROO

Goodfellow's tree kangaroos look for food on the ground. They stay near trees so they can hide in them if there is danger nearby. These kangaroos are clumsy on land but are bold and strong in trees.

The bottoms of their feet are rubbery to help them grip branches. Goodfellow's tree kangaroos spend more than half of their time sleeping in trees. These tree kangaroos can jump over 59 feet to the ground from trees!

● *If you could sleep anywhere, where would you choose?*



Artwork ©2002 by Jason Chin for HEBOT Summer Reading.

Tern and Penguin

Penguins have dark and white feathers and flippers for swimming. Most penguins eat krill, fish, squid, and other sea life, which they catch with their bills while swimming.



Photo credit: Christopher Siskind, Australia, December 2012. Source: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Penguin, Downloaded July 25, 2022.

Goodfellow's Tree Kangaroo

Tree kangaroos climb by wrapping their forelimbs, or arms, around the trunk of a tree and hopping with their powerful back legs, allowing their forelimbs to slide. Other kangaroos move their back legs at the same time, but tree kangaroos can move their back legs separately. They use their long tails for balance.



Photo credit: Tim Vittoria, July 2006. Source: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goodfellow's_tree_kangaroo, Downloaded July 25, 2022.

Scavenger Hunt as Outreach

- Library branches
- Local businesses
- Local museums/areas of historical interest
- Local Parks
- Local government buildings

COMPLETE SCAVENGER HUNT IN RESOURCE GUIDE

Local Gardens Walk

- Partner with your local garden club to take tour of area gardens
- Invite University of Illinois Extension Office Master Gardeners to share their plant knowledge
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Forest Preserve Districts, U of I Extension Office have resources to share with patrons



Decorations & Displays



DIY Seek and Find



- Use images from weeded books
- Place in a window to engage patrons outside the building
- Can be thematic to promote other programs

A Word with Mother Earth



- Create a display with a friendly-looking Earth illustration
- Invite patrons to leave notes for the Earth
- Focus on gratitude or changes they can make to have less of an impact on the Earth

Focus: Conservation

Create various habitat displays to showcase the animal illustrations in the Resource Guide





- You are the I in iRead!
- You can have a say in future programming, decorations, and crafts!
- Submit your ideas to the Resource Guide!

Resource Guide Submissions

- **Getting Started**
Publicity and Promotion; Registration and Recording; Staff Resources; and Slogans, Jokes, Tweets, and Quotes.
- **Crafts and Maker Ideas**
Please include a list of materials, sources for materials, step-by-step instructions, and resources. An original drawing, sample, and/or photograph is required.
- **Programming**
Participatory and Passive Programs, Storytimes, Events, and Presenters
- **Decorations and Displays**
Please include a list of materials, sources for materials, step-by-step instructions, and resources. An original drawing, sample, and/or photograph is required.
- **Bibliographies and Other Resources**
Fiction and nonfiction books, audio, or films for various ages. Indicate the reading level/interest category: board books, picture books, early readers, grades 2-6, teen, adult, or family.

The deadline for submissions is January 31, 2024.

<https://www.ireadprogram.org/resources/summer-2025-level-up-at-your-library/call-for-resource-guide-submissions>

Benefits of Submitting to the Resource Guide

- Help shape future iRead programs
- Share your ideas and programming work with librarians world-wide
- Have your name published in the Resource Guide
- Build up your resume



Questions?

Contact us at: iREAD@ila.org
www.iREADprogram.org





ILA Noon Network January 29, 2024

