

Summer Learning Challenge Goes Digital with Launch of Beanstack

SAN MATEO, CA- On June 1, the Summer Learning Challenge kicked off in every public library across San Mateo County with exciting changes to the 2018 program. This year the libraries are going digital with the launch of an innovative site developed by [Beanstack](#). This online service will provide participants with the tools to track reading goals, receive recommended reading lists and earn badges by attending library activities. Users also have the ability to register multiple family members online with one account, providing a fun and free way for the whole family to engage with education during the school break.

“Last year over 82% percent of the County’s youth population participated in the Summer Learning Challenge, and we are hoping to increase that number this year with the rollout of our new online tool,” said Katie Woods, Communications Manager of San Mateo County Libraries. “Not only does the Summer Learning Challenge assist kids in maintaining and enhancing their educational skills over the summer, it also gives children the boost they need to feel more prepared for the next school year.”

According to the [National Summer Learning Association](#), low-income children typically lose two to three months of reading skills over the summer. To curb summer learning loss, the Summer Learning Challenge encourages youth to read books, learn new skills and participate in high-quality, interactive educational programs. These free [programs](#) range from science workshops to baby sign language and vary by location.

To sign up, participants can pick up a reading log available at any [public library](#), or register online at [summerlearners.org](#). To get them started, every child that signs up will receive a free book.

Children who visit the libraries this summer will also be eligible to enter a weekly raffle to win prizes, such as museum passes, tickets to sporting events, and gift cards. Youth participants that complete the program online or in person can enter a drawing to win a \$1,000 college scholarship.

The Summer Learning Challenge is coordinated by San Mateo County Libraries and offered in partnership with the city libraries of [Burlingame](#), [Daly City](#), [Menlo Park](#), [Redwood City](#), [San Bruno](#), [San Mateo](#) and [South San Francisco](#). Recognizing the importance of early learning, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors provides funding for the Summer Learning Challenge from [Measure K](#), a half-cent, voter-approved sales tax extension for local needs.

To take the challenge or learn more about the libraries' free summer programs, visit summerlearners.org or any public library in San Mateo County.

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