

City of Dallas
News Release
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Mayor Leppert to announce 2008 Summer Reading Program Tuesday;
"Readers are Leaders" is theme of this year's program, which begins May 31

Dallas, TX – Mayor Tom Leppert will officially launch the 2008 Mayor's Summer Reading Program "Readers are Leaders" at a press conference at 10 a.m. Tuesday, May 27 on the first floor of the Dallas Central Library, 1515 Young St.

"Children have so many choices for summer entertainment and my goal is to inspire children to make reading part of their summer fun," said **Mayor Tom Leppert**. "I believe summer reading will lead to a generation of children who love to read and continue reading as adults."

All Dallas area children up to age 18 are encouraged to participate in the program, and can register at any Dallas Public Library branch. Throughout the summer, children will be asked to log the time they spend reading. Young readers will be classified according to their grade level, but even children who can't read themselves can participate if someone reads to them.

"Summer reading increases a child's ability to perform well in the next school year by expanding their vocabularies and helping them to become better students," said **Dallas Public Library Director Laurie Evans**. "The love of reading that continues throughout the summer helps children maintain and improve the reading skills they work so hard to develop during the school year – those skills that will ensure their success in school and life."

The Dallas Public Library has offered a special summer reading program for more than 40 years. In 1997, it became known as the *Mayor's Summer Reading Program* because of the support of the Mayor's office. Since that time, more than 165,000 kids have participated in the program. Each year, the Mayor's Summer Reading Program enrolls more than 16,000 children who, in turn, read almost 400,000 hours. The program will conclude on Aug. 9

For more information on the Mayor's Summer Reading program, go to <http://dallaslibrary.org/SRP/2008srpinfo.htm>. The Dallas Public Library operates the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young St., and 25 branch locations. A library card is free for any Dallas resident. For information on the many free programs and services available at the Dallas Public Library, visit: www.dallaslibrary.org.

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