



PRESS RELEASE

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***On Your Mark, Get Set, READ!
New Haven Free Public Library Launches
Summer Learning Challenge and Open eBooks***

City Librarian, Martha Brogan, is pleased to announce the kick-off of New Haven Free Public Library's summer learning challenge which spans from pre-K to teens in support of the Mayor's initiative to make New Haven known as "The City That Reads." You can sign up online or in person at any of our five locations for this summer's learning challenge.

New this year, the library is introducing the ability to track summer reading minutes online and earn points for end-of-summer rewards using Wandoo Reader. "The ability to track reading online makes it convenient for participants to record their program anytime and anyplace throughout the summer," Brogan said.

Here's how it works:

- **For Kids from birth to entering Kindergarten**, register from any computer or mobile device at <http://nhfpl.org/kids-summer-learning-challenge-2016> **Goal: 400 minutes of reading over the summer!**
- **For Kids entering 1st through 6th Grade**, register from any computer or mobile device at <http://nhfpl.org/kids-summer-learning-challenge-2016> **Goal: 1,000 minutes of reading over the summer!**
- **Teens** register from any computer or mobile device at <http://nhfpl.org/2016-teen-summer-challenge> Collect points for reading, discovering things to see and do in New Haven, and for participating in summer activities.



The Library is also launching a new digital service, the [Open eBooks app](#), which is available to all school-age kids who attend New Haven Public Schools. [Open eBooks](#) makes thousands of popular and award-winning titles available to qualified, registered users and allows them to check out up to 10 titles at a time. All library locations now have three tablets dedicated to accessing the Open eBook content making it possible for kids to read at their own pace on-site or to register for a code at the library to download the app and use at home on a family-owned device.

“Open eBooks,” Brogan explains, “aims to bridge the digital divide by providing equitable access to digital books for children from low income families.” The program represents a major coalition of literacy, library, and publishing partners, working in support of the [White House ConnectED initiative](#), through which New Haven’s Mayor, Superintendent of Schools and City Librarian pledged universal distribution of library cards to all public school students in the city. The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), First Book, and The New York Public Library (NYPL), created the app, curated the eBook collection, and developed a system for distribution and use. They received financial support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), assistance from Baker & Taylor, and contributions from major publishers.

About the New Haven Free Public Library

The New Haven Free Public Library welcomes more than 620,000 library patrons through its doors each year. The library system includes the Ives Memorial Library on the historic New Haven Green, the 24/7 online services of our digital branch, the ReadMobile – bringing books to early childhood learning centers, and four neighborhood libraries: Fair Haven, Mitchell, Wilson and Stetson.

The New Haven Free Public Library’s mission is to ensure all New Haven’s citizens have full and unlimited access to information and knowledge so that they may meet the needs of daily living, have opportunities for self-education, and participate successfully in self-government.

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