



PROCLAMATION

ONE CITY. ONE JACKSONVILLE.

WHEREAS: Libraries contribute to the intellectual growth of children and teens during the summer through reading programs; and

WHEREAS: Two-thirds of the reading achievement gap between high- and low-socioeconomic status ninth graders can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities, and one-third of the gap is present before students begin school; and

WHEREAS: More than 60% of America's low-income children are growing up in homes without age-appropriate books or reading materials, leaving them an average of three years behind children raised in homes with many books; and

WHEREAS: Research has shown just 20 minutes a day of reading or being read to can provide time for parents and caregivers to bond with children, expose children to as many 1.8 million words per year, help students reach the 90th percentile on standardized tests, improve listening skills, prepare pre-kindergartners for school, improve children's earning potential later in life, and lead to healthier lives; and

WHEREAS: Adults who read regularly and use their public library are role models for children, motivating them to become lifelong readers and learners; and

WHEREAS: Public libraries provide access to reading materials with fun and enriching events and activities that are free and open to all citizens in their service area; and

WHEREAS: Jacksonville Public Library encourages a love of reading by providing access to books both in libraries and giving children books during the summer to build their home libraries. By visiting the library frequently, these young library users will grow their chance of becoming lifelong learners and readers.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONNA DEEGAN, by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of Jacksonville, Florida, do hereby proclaim July 2023 as

SUMMER LEARNING AT THE LIBRARY

in Jacksonville and encourage all parents and caregivers to visit the library with their children so those children can read and borrow books, read or be read to for at least 20 minutes per day, participate in enriching summer learning activities, and receive free books to build their home libraries.



IN WITNESS THEREOF, this 13th Day of July in the year
Two Thousand and Twenty-Three.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Donna Deegan".

MAYOR

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA