FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, July 11, 2018

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Kansas City Libraries Team Up for ‘Library Night at The K’

Royals Host Fundraising Night to Benefit Libraries’ Summer Reading Programs

Greater Kansas City, MO – The libraries of greater Kansas City have once again teamed up with the Kansas City Royals to score big for the libraries’ annual summer reading programs. On Tuesday, July 24, the Royals will host Library Night at The K as they take on the Detroit Tigers, and a portion of every ticket purchased through one of six custom links (see below) will go toward a library’s summer reading program or other programs.

“Few things bring people together like libraries and baseball!” said Steven V. Potter, MCPL Director and CEO. “Both offer great opportunities to create memories and to spend time with friends and family. That's why we’re so excited to partner with the Royals for Library Night at The K. We hope everyone will join with us by cheering on our hometown team and by supporting our hometown libraries. Go Royals!”

Below are the six libraries participating in Library Night at The K and their corresponding ticket links:

- Johnson County Library royals.com/JCL
- Kansas City, Kansas Public Library royals.com/KCKPL
- Kansas City Public Library royals.com/kclibrary
- Mid-Continent Public Library royals.com/MCPL
- North Kansas City Public Library royals.com/NKCPL
- Olathe Public Library royals.com/OPL

“We are proud to join our colleagues from across the Metro for a beautiful night of baseball and celebrating the great libraries in our community,” said Crosby Kemper III, Kansas City Public Library Executive Director. “A good book and a good baseball game are some of the best parts of summer. We’re grateful to be able to connect baseball fans with the joys of the Summer Reading Program and getting books into the hands of the littlest Royals fans to create a lifelong love of learning.”

Prior to the first pitch, all six libraries will host pregame celebrations outside Gate B with a variety of activities and giveaways including:

- The chance to meet Mid-Continent Public Library’s mascot, Marty the Martian, and see the Library’s Reading Rocket, a mobile early literacy unit. Attendees can also pick up an “I ♥ MCPL” royal blue wristband, while supplies last.
- Cooling towels, bubbles, and candy from North Kansas City Public Library
- Baseball and library trivia to win prizes with Olathe Public Library
• Fans and bookmarks from Johnson County Library
• Free book giveaways (children’s and adult), a bean bag toss game, a selfie station, and reading recommendations from Kansas City Public Library

“It is a pleasure to see local libraries coming together to offer incentives that encourage children to continue reading and learning during the summer,” said North Kansas City Public Library Director Vickie Lewis. “We are thankful to have a wonderful hometown team that supports the engagement and education of children in the community.”

In addition to the pregame celebrations, beloved children’s entertainer Mr. Stinky Feet will perform in the Outfield Experience between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m., including his signature hit, “Rockin’ the Library.” From the time gates open until the second inning, the libraries will have tables with more activities and giveaways in the Outfield Experience, and members of the libraries’ executive leadership teams will also be recognized before the players take the field. The National Anthem will be sung by Olathe Public Library Indian Creek Branch Manager Bob Miller.

“Both Royals baseball and KC metro libraries again ‘hit it out of the park’ for fans who enjoy and support stellar institutions and a growing tradition throughout our ‘hometown,’” said Olathe Public Library Director Emily Baker.

Library Night at The K also marks the launch of KCPT’s Great American Read here in Kansas City, and representatives from the local PBS station will share information about the celebration before the game. During The Great American Read, participants can cast their vote to find out what our city’s and our country’s favorite books are, and on Library Night, KCPT will have a special voting booth in the Outfield Experience.

“We are happy to partner with the Kansas City Royals again this summer,” said Carol Levers, Director of Libraries, Kansas City, Kansas Public Library. “Whether it’s with a book or a baseball, children are learning the value of teamwork, community, and practice, all while having fun.”

Across the Kansas City metro, these six library systems collectively serve more than 1.8 million people via 62 branches, five mobile units, and 17 other service locations. In fact, the more than 9.7 million visitors to all of these libraries over the past year would have filled Kauffman Stadium 257 times.

“When you are Raised Royal it’s all about ballparks, batters, bases, and books,” said Sean Casserley, County Librarian at Johnson County Library. “It’s what makes Kansas City great!”

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