FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

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Library’s Summer Learning Program Blasts Off on May 20

2019 Summer Learning Program for Kids, Teens, & Adults Explores ‘Universe of Stories’

Greater Kansas City, MO – Mid-Continent Public Library is pleased to announce the upcoming launch of its annual Summer Learning Program, which encourages children to remain intellectually engaged while they are out of the classroom. From May 20 through July 31, participating kids and teens can earn free books and win great prizes by reading, attending Library programs, and taking part in educational activities at home. Adults can also get in on the fun by modeling good reading behaviors at home.

This year’s program will launch with the Summer Learning Program Blast-Off event hosted by MCPL and other Kansas City-area libraries, including Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City Kansas Public Library, Johnson County Library, and North Kansas City Public Library, at Union Station on Saturday, May 18, at 9:30 a.m. During the event, families can meet MCPL’s mascot, Marty the Martian, and KC Wolf as well as enjoy a free screening of National Parks Adventure 3D on the Extreme Screen! Attendees will receive special same-day discounted admission to Science City. Register for this program at mymcpl.org/UnionStation.

“Summer Learning Program, at its core, is about making sure that kids go back to school in the fall ready to learn, and preventing that ‘summer slide,’ which can have serious long-term effects on learning,” said Haley Lefholz, Assistant Manager of MCPL’s Youth Services Department. “But in addition to the educational benefits, this program is also a lot of fun and offers opportunities for the whole family to get involved!”

As in previous years, Summer Learning Program participants can win special prizes, such as tickets and special experiences, from the Library’s community partners, including the Kansas City Royals, Kansas City Chiefs, Worlds of Fun and Oceans of Fun, LEGOLAND Discovery Center, and Union Station. Kids and teens can qualify for these in a variety of ways, including:

1. READING! (Reading is required to complete the program.)
2. Completing fun, age-appropriate activities at home. A complete list of learning activities is available online.
3. Attending programs at MCPL branches through July 31. The Library is presenting more than 100 programs this summer at various locations, and many of them are space-themed!

Adult participants (ages 19+) can earn a Summer Learning Program t-shirt or tote bag from Big Frog Custom T-Shirts by logging 1,000 minutes of reading. Adults also have the chance to win prizes, including tickets from Community Partners, tickets to Library Night at The K on Tuesday, July 30 (a citywide wrap-up to Summer
Learning Program), tickets to a Kansas City Chiefs pre-season game, or concert tickets courtesy of Mix 93.3 and KC102.1.

To find out more about Mid-Continent Public Library’s 2019 Summer Learning Program, including instructions on how to enroll and participate, visit mymcpl.org/Blast.

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**Access Your World**

Mid-Continent Public Library is the largest library system in the Kansas City metropolitan area, operating 31 branches and two Library-To-Go locations and serving more than 800,000 people in Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties. The Library strives to enrich our citizens and communities through expanding access to innovation, information, ideas, and inspiration. MCPL is a 2014 National Medal for Museum and Library Service winner. Connect with the Library on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.