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Contact Information:
Emily Brown
Public Relations Coordinator
Mid-Continent Public Library
ebrown@mymcpl.org
O: 816.503.4187
M: 816.809.9630

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 teamed up with the Kansas City Royals to score big for the libraries’ annual summer reading programs, which currently have nearly 50,000 participants throughout the metro. On Thursday, August 3, the Royals will host Library Night at The K as they take on the Seattle Mariners, and a portion of every ticket purchased through one of five custom links (see below) will go toward a library’s summer reading program.

In addition to this fundraiser, the Royals have supported the libraries’ summer reading initiatives by donating prizes for participants, including 1,000 tickets to Library Night at The K. While each library’s summer reading program is unique, all have the same goal: to keep kids reading and learning throughout the summer.

“The Royals are not only a great baseball team; they are a tremendous community partner. Along with Royals Charities, they have been instrumental in helping us get kids excited about our annual Summer Learning Program, which keeps children intellectually engaged over the summer months,” said Mid-Continent Public Library Director and CEO Steven V. Potter. “We’re proud to participate in Library Night at The K and encourage everyone to come by and root on our boys in blue and, at the same time, support the work of their local library.”

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library</th>
<th>Ticket Link</th>
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<tr>
<td>Johnson County Library</td>
<td>royals.com/jcl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kansas City, Kansas Public Library</td>
<td>royals.com/kckpl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kansas City Public Library</td>
<td>royals.com/kclibrary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Continent Public Library</td>
<td>royals.com/MCPL</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Kansas City Public Library</td>
<td>n/a – use another</td>
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<tr>
<td>Olathe Public Library</td>
<td>royals.com/OPL</td>
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“We’re excited to partner with the Kansas City Royals to support all of the outstanding libraries in greater Kansas City,” said Crosby Kemper III, Kansas City Public Library executive director. “When we work together to keep kids reading during the summer, we’re making this entire community stronger.”

Prior to the first pitch at 7:15 p.m., the libraries will host pregame celebrations in two locations. Fans at Gate B can enjoy 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.
• An opportunity to see one of Kansas City, Kansas Public Library’s mobile libraries, make a special button, and meet the Library’s mascot, RU Reading

“Whether it’s a book or a baseball that you put in a child’s hands, you’re teaching them something,” said Carol Levers, director of libraries at Kansas City, Kansas Public Library. “But while there are so many valuable lessons to be learned—like teamwork, sportsmanship, or simply improving their reading skills—they are having fun.”

Additionally, Library representatives will be at tables near Gate A in the Outfield Experience with:

• “I ♥ MCPL” royal blue wristbands and Grow A Reader: An Interplanetary Tale children’s books (while supplies last), as well as small prizes for those participants of MCPL’s bean bag toss challenge
• Pens and bookmarks from Johnson County Library
• Eclipse glasses and candy from North Kansas City Public Library
• Baseball and library trivia with Olathe Public Library and prizes including tattoos, color-changing cups, and stress-reliever balls

“What a great way to promote both our KC Royals and our wonderful metro libraries!” said Olathe Public Library Director Emily Baker. “Libraries and baseball are not only enriching and entertaining but also emblematic of American tradition.”

Across the Kansas City metro, these six library systems collectively serve more than 1.6 million people via 62 branches, five mobile units, and 22 other service locations. In fact, the 9.9 million visitors to all of these libraries over the past year would have filled Kauffman Stadium 262 times. In 2016, the libraries’ annual summer reading programs saw more than 62,000 participants (2017 results still being collected).

“Kansas City is such a vibrant library town, and it’s fantastic to be able to come together and show the community that we’re here, we support each other, and—large or small—we all share the same goal: to connect people with resources, and with one another,” said North Kansas City Public Library Director Vickie Lewis.

“Books and baseball. What a great way to come together as a community,” said Sean Casserley, County Librarian at Johnson County Library. “Johnson County Library is grateful for the support of the Royals, our community, and our library patrons. Play ball and read!”

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