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Discovering stories, music and traditions from continents around the world is the focus of the 2004 summer reading program at the Deschutes Public Libraries. All children from birth through 5th grade are invited to participate and earn a free book, as well as the chance to win a puppet and attend free programs that feature creative activities based on literature.

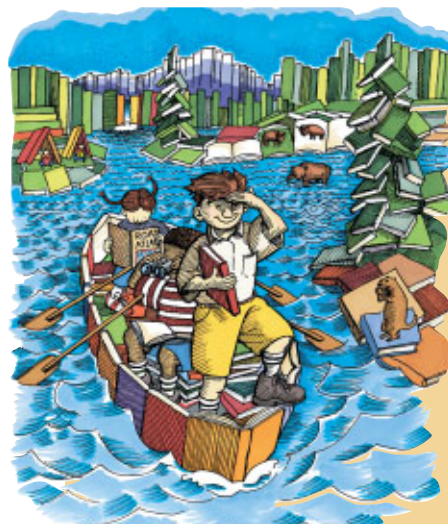
"Discover New Trails @ Your Library" is the theme of the program and it runs June 5-August 14. Each child who reads or listens to books for three hours fills out a coupon from the library and receives a free book. More coupons can be turned in for each additional three hours, and each coupon means a chance at winning one of the Folkmanis puppets on display at the libraries.

All of the libraries will also offer free programs each week. Children ages 0-5 can attend story times, and children ages 6-11 are invited to Weekly Wanders, a weekly creative program that offers stories, crafts, and other activities from a particular country. Each of the libraries will also have three family concerts during the summer. Anne-Louise Sterry will perform "Simply Song and Story," a storytelling program that invites participation and laughter from all ages. "Around the World in Music" will be an amazing performance by Todd Green as he introduces and plays many instruments from many countries. "Jugglemania: Improbable Juggling, Unique Comedy, and Amazing Acrobatics" will feature the hilarious antics of Rhys Thomas.

Newspapers that explain all the details of "Discover New Trails @ Your Library," as well as the dates of all the programs and concerts, will be available at the public libraries in Bend, La Pine, Redmond, Sisters and Sunriver, and the Book Buggy in mid-May. "Studies show that children who remain involved with books all summer long begin school in the fall with a definite advantage," stated Heather McNeil, Youth Services Manager.

For more information contact Heather McNeil at 617-7099, or your local branch library.

(Heather McNeil - Bend Libray Co-manager)



Did You Know in 2003...

550,995 items were circulated from the children's collection



867,549 items were circulated from the adult collection



12,794 new library cards were issued



38,122 new books, videos, or other materials were added to the collection



Volunteers contributed 11,461 hours



Attendance at children's programs in a branch library was 30,782



Attendance at children's presentations at schools and other locations was 24,414