

LEVEL UP AT YOUR LIBRARY

ROCK ISLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY SUMMER GUIDE



Level Up with the 2025 Summer Reading Challenge! June 1-July 31

Win registration, halfway, and finish prizes for all ages. Your reading will help smash our goal of 500,000 community minutes!

Register = Claim prize Reading Land:

Warm up with a bonus 30-minute reading badge, then earn 1 point each by logging 60, 120, 180, 240, 300, 500, 750, 1000, and 2000 minutes.

Activity Land:

Earn 1 point each for attending events, checking out special items, reading outside or with friends/family, or trying library resources.

5 points = halfway prize.

10 points = finish prize.

Any combination of point badges levels you up!



ONE
challenge
- all ages



1. Choose either Beanstack or paper for tracking progress.
2. Register in Beanstack or pick up a paper log.
3. Track minutes and complete library activities.
4. ALL Reading Counts. (and yes, it's OK to backdate reading!)
5. Return print logs by July 31.

JUNE/JULY 2025

- FREE events for all ages
- FREE All Ages Summer Reading Challenge
- Open to All!

www.rockislandlibrary.org

309-732-READ

Free Events for Everyone - Level Up Summer!



LEVEL UP AT
YOUR LIBRARY

Summer Kickoff! Thursday, May 29 4 pm to 6:30 pm

Quad City Botanical Center,
2525 4th Avenue

Summer reading registration, garden play,
scavenger hunt, bubbles, and more. Popcorn
sponsored by Gas & Electric Credit Union (GECU).
Bring a water bottle to refill!

PS: You can register anytime during the reading
challenge. Join us to level up your summer!



FUN ACTIVITY STATIONS:

Rock Island Library & Quad
City Botanical Center; Corps
of Engineers, Girl Scouts,
Hauberg Estate, Metro,
Midwest Writing Center, MLK
Center, RI Parks &
Recreation, QC Wild Ones, QC
CAN, Spring Forward
Learning Center, The Figge,
and WQPT-PBS.

**Rain or Shine -
FREE! All Ages**

More Special Events



Shadowland Serpentry

Educational reptile program: **June 12:**
10:30 am Downtown; and 1 pm Southwest.



Powerpoint Party!

June 18, 6:30 to 7:30 pm,
Watts-Midtown Branch. Create
and present a silly slideshow.

Dragon Training Academy

Train Medieval dragons
using science! 10 am,
June 27, Watts-Midtown.



For for all ages Sip 'n Paint - 2 dates!



Free painting &
soda mix bar.

5 pm-7 pm

June 24 at

Southwest;

4 pm-6 pm **July 10**
at Downtown.

Registration required! All ages.

Family Tie-Dye

3:30 to 5:30 pm,
July 22,

Watts-Midtown.

Bring an item to
tie and dye! (Dye is
messy. Wear old clothes.)



Summer wrap-up: Petting Zoo in the Park

10 am-2 pm, July 26 at Longview Park.
Pet 25 to 35 animals from Miller's Petting Zoo. Free book while supplies last for each child. Complimentary animal feed cup for the first 200 guests! Co-hosted with Rock Island Parks & Recreation Department. Free and open to all!

Our thanks to Rock Island Township for their generous support of this event.



Free popcorn for humans. Bring a refillable water bottle!



Did You Know?

Free gun locks to help keep firearms safer in the home are available at our Downtown Library Reference Desk.

Provided by the UTH ("Under the Helmet") Riders Foundation, which seeks to improve gun safety and reduce traffic fatalities.



Summer Cultural Pass Changes: Whitewater Junction & Niabi Zoo Passes



From May 26 to August 30, Whitewater Junction & Niabi Zoo passes are limited to one checkout per card.



This ensures more cardholders can use these scarce community resources this summer.

All other cultural passes check out as usual. Try Explore More Illinois for statewide cultural & recreational passes.

Passes check out for 3 days. Available to ages 18 or older.



July Book Sale

July 25 & 26,
10 am to 1pm,

Downtown
Library. Stock
up on summer

reading. Pay what you
want: Cash, check,
charge. Proceeds
benefit the library.



Summer Free Events for Kids!



Storytimes For Littles



- Tuesdays/Fridays: Watts-Midtown 10:30 am
- Wednesdays: 11 am Southwest
- Petite Picassos: 2nd Wednesday, 11 am, Southwest

WQPT PBS Kids Visit!



**July 15 at 10:30 am,
Watts-Midtown Branch**

Enjoy a PBS KIDS show, hear a fun story, and create a take-home craft. Free PBS KIDS Summer Activity booklet.

Summer Math Club



June 10-July 15 at the Downtown Library, 3:15 pm.

Level up your math game with Ms. Elizabeth! Ages 8 to 12 (2nd-6 grades.) Free, registration required.

Weekly Afternoon Activity Watts-Midtown Branch

3:30 pm to 4:30 pm



- June 10: Sticker making
- June 17: Fun with photography
- June 24: Giant yard games
- July 1: 3D Pens
- July 8: Upcycling
- July 15: Wii Sports
- July 29: Resin Crafts

Set your goals for Summer



Tips for Family Reading:

- Count bedtime stories & storytimes.
- Repeated reads? Count the story each time!
- Sign up for 1,000 books Before Kindergarten. Your reading will count for both challenges!

Library2Go Around Town!



Longview Park stops

Tuesdays, 2:30 - 3:30 pm
Children's Librarians bring stories & an activity to the bookmobile!
Full bookmobile schedule at www.rockislandlibrary.org.

Library2Go at Hauberg Backyard Bioblitz

June 27, 3 pm to 5 pm Explore local wildlife and plants, and the Rock Island Library2Go bookmobile!



Did you know? All Library events are free and open to all. Our Summer Reading Challenge is open to anyone.





PNG Events

STEAM fun. Earn an activity badge for attending these!

Dissection Lab:

Sheep hearts & small lizards: June 9, from 4 pm to 5 pm, Downtown. Registration required.

Weekly STEAM on Wheels:

- June 5 - Downtown
- June 12 - Southwest
- June 20 - Watts-Midtown
- June 26 - Downtown



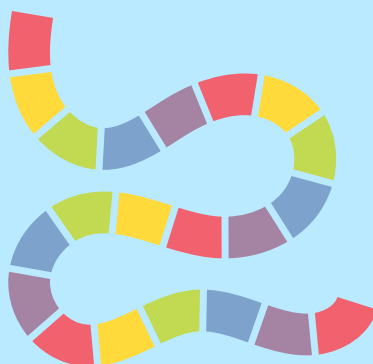
All dates: 3 pm to 5 pm. Registration required!



Art with the Figge

June 27 at 2 pm, Watts-Midtown Branch. Please register.

Board Game Day
Saturday, July 12
10:30 am - 1:30 pm
Downtown Library



Mini Golf

(All Ages)

Downtown Library

12-hole course



Friday, July 11:

2 pm - 6 pm

Saturday, July 12:

10 am - 2 pm

Sign up for a free tee time for your group!



Pride Perler Beads



June 16, 4 pm to 6:30 pm, Watts-Midtown Branch. Drop in any time.

Create earrings, keychains, or magnets with fusible beads.

Tiffany D. Jackson Visit in April

Best-selling author Tiffany D. Jackson visited Rock Island High School April 24, 2025. We were happy to partner with the Rock Island-Milan School District on this special event. Check out her books in our collection!



Photos: RIHS yearbook

Register for teen events: 309-732-7315 or www.rockislandlibrary.org

Level up Learning

Retirement:

Estate Planning

June 4 at 6:30 pm,
Watts-Midtown

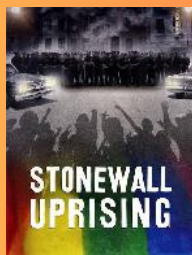


A River Runs Through It - Video Series

Downtown Library

- **June 18**, Life Along the Mississippi, 2 pm
- **July 16**, Steamboats in America, 2 pm
- **Aug. 20**: Life on the Mississippi, 1:30 pm (2 hours, PBS.)

The Stonewall Uprising, by American Experience:



June 10 at 6 pm, Watts-Midtown. Documentary.

History of Holidays

With Dave Stotts,
Drive-Thru History

2 pm, Downtown Library

- June 30: Independence Day
- Aug. 25: Labor Day



*Speaking of holidays ...
Rock Island Public Libraries
are closed on Juneteenth,
July 4, and Labor Day.*

Level up your health!

Nutrition & Wellness Series with Illinois Extension Office

- June 12: Eating Well as We Age
 - July 17: Eight Dimensions of Wellness
- 2 pm, Watts-Midtown Branch.



Life Saving Practice - Stop the Bleed Ordinary steps to save a life!

Saturday, June 14, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm,
Downtown Library. Sign up starts May 19.
Presented by UTH Riders Foundation.



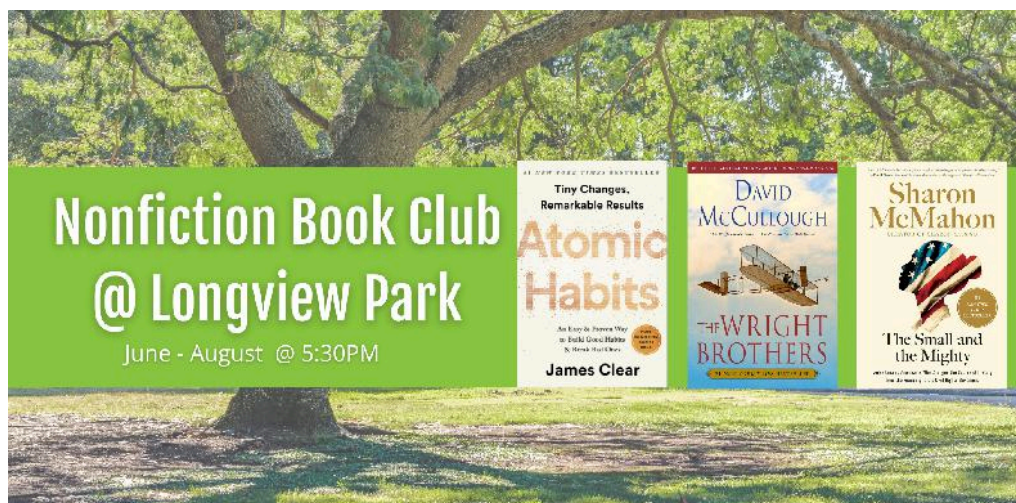
Your Mind Matters: Cultivating Self-Care & Resilience in a Busy World

Thursday, June 12

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm, Watts-Midtown

Protect your mental well-being with practical tools to prioritize self-care, manage stress, and build resilience!

Made possible by ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds designated by City of Rock Island.



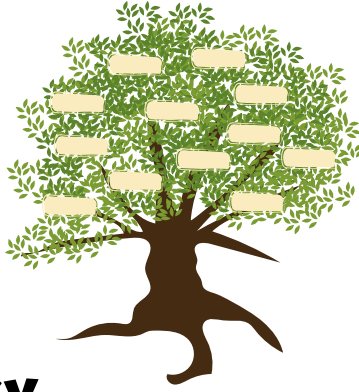
Summer Nonfiction Book Club at Longview Park:

5:30 pm, June 11 (Atomic Habits,) **July 9** (The Wright Brothers,) and **Aug. 13** (The Small and the Mighty.)
Bring a chair and join in! (Moves to Watts-Midtown Branch in bad weather.)

Special Interests For Adults

Genealogy

Genealogy:
Ancestry.com
June 3 at 2 pm,
Downtown Library



History

250 Years of the Army
Talks by Rock Island Arsenal

- Wed, June 11: 1919-1940: Interwar Years
 - Wed, Aug. 13: 1941-1945: World War II
- All at 2 pm, Downtown Library

D-Day Battlefield Tour with Kevin Braafladt, Army Sustainment Command

Wed, July 9 at 2 pm, Downtown



History on display at the Downtown Library:

- June: Frozen on the Frieze - Longfellow
- July: Famous Rock Islanders - John Looney
- August: When Centennial Bridge was Toll

2nd floor display case near elevator

Social Connections



Coffee & Conversations:

June 12 & 26, July 10 & 24,
Aug. 14 & 28; 10 am to noon,
Southwest Branch



Death Talk Cafes

- 11 am-1 pm, June 21, July 19, and Aug. 16, Watts-Midtown Branch
- Cake & conversation about life and death.

Crafts

Pressed Flower Coaster:

June 9 at 5:30 pm,
Southwest Branch.
Sign up starts May 9.



String Art Class:

June 25 at 6 pm, Watts-Midtown Branch. Sign up starts June 11.



Cardmaking Class:

July 14 at 5:30 pm,
Southwest Branch. Sign up opens June 14.



Classes fill fast - check calendar for openings.

Please be kind - cancel if you can't make it so others can go!



Books & Reading

Seniors Read Banned Books

Discuss books that appear on banned or challenged lists around the country.

- **June 24**, *Looking for Alaska*, by John Green
- **July 22**, *Dreaming in Cuban*, by Cristina Garcia
- **Aug. 26**, *The Fixer*, by Bernard Malamud

2 pm all events, Downtown Library

Silent Book Club®

July 17 and Aug. 21, 5:30 to 6:30 pm, Watts-Midtown Branch.
Read a book of your choice in silent company. No required reading! Discussion may follow reading time. (No June meeting.)



Save the Date for Artist Receptions & Exhibits

Thanks to a Quad City Arts Dollars grant, the Watts-Midtown Branch will host three local arts exhibits in 2025! Our summer show, "Explorations," features works by Zaiga Thorson, Stacey Replinger, and Ralph Iaccarino. Join us Friday, June 20, from 4 pm to 6 pm in the Watts-Midtown auditorium for the opening reception. The show closes July 31.

Additional shows open Aug. 15 and Oct. 17. A list of participating artists will be available soon!



This project supported by Quad City Arts, through the Arts Dollars re-granting program, supported by The Illinois Arts Council Agency, a state agency, The Hubbell-Waterman Foundation, and the Quad Cities Community Foundation - Isabel Bloom Art Education Endowment.

Summer Fun with Your Library Card!

RIPL Library of Things collections offer plenty of ways to enjoy local Rock Island parks. Check out disc golf, yard games, pickleball paddles, even golf clubs!



Pick up 5 individual packets or 1 Seed Bundle per month. Wide selection, including native seeds! Full collection Downtown; bundles at Watts-Midtown and Southwest Branches. Free to all.

Downtown: 401 19th Street
Southwest Branch: 9010 Ridgewood Road
Watts-Midtown Branch: 2715 30th Street
Library2Go (see website for schedule)



Online: www.rockislandlibrary.org

ONGOING EVENTS

Downtown Movie Club

All 1 pm, Downtown Library:

- No movie in June
- July 17, Nickel Boys (PG-13)
- Aug. 21, title TBA.

Adult Knitting Circle

- 2 pm to 4 pm, June 16, July 21, Aug. 18, Downtown Library
- Bring a project & work on it with company!

Southwest Book Club

Aug. 27: God of the Woods, by Liz Moore, 3 pm to 4 pm, Southwest Branch.

Goodwill Computer Help

Most Wednesdays, 2 pm to 3 pm, Downtown Library. Drop in. Questions? 309-732-7341.

Update your PrairieCat Mobile App

The new Vega Discover fine payment system has been enabled for the PrairieCat Mobile App



Always have the most recent version by enabling auto updates on your device

SUMMER CLOSINGS

Memorial Day: May 26
Juneteenth: June 19
Independence Day: July 4
Cart Races, Downtown only

- Close early: Aug. 29.
- Closed Saturday, Aug. 30

Labor Day: Sept. 1

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