

**April 3, 2008**

## **County libraries and Sarasota Reds team up to promote reading**

Sarasota County libraries and the Sarasota Reds are teaming up to promote reading. Beginning on opening day, April 5, children who check out any four books at any of the eight Sarasota County public libraries will receive a Home Run Reading Card. Upon reading the books and returning them to the library, a library staff member will initial their reading card, which is good for a general admission ticket to any 2008 Sarasota Reds game at Ed Smith Stadium.

"The program was a huge success last year with kids from all eight Sarasota County libraries taking part," said North Sarasota Library's Hal Harmon. In addition to getting free admission to a 2008 game, children will also have a chance to win a 2009 Sarasota Reds general admission season ticket by reading more books.

"We created the Big League Reader Program here in Sarasota because we felt it was very important to show the necessity and importance for children to read and to make it an enjoyable experience at the same time," said General Manager Dan Wolfert. "We are happy to provide kids with an incentive to read and we look forward to this partnership for years to come."

For more information contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask about the Big League Reader program.