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## **Sarasota County libraries announce summer youth programs**

The Sarasota County library system has announced a wide variety of summer youth programs to encourage creativity through activities including drawing, writing, painting, dancing, singing, and reading. The Sarasota County library system includes eight state-of-the-art libraries with a collection of over 1 million items, free movies, programs, computers and Wi-Fi access.

The 2009 summer youth program, "Be Creative and Express Yourself," offers exciting opportunities for preschool children and students to participate in activities like story time, art workshops and theater performances. Children will enjoy presentations by guest speakers like John Storms the Reptile man and storyteller Windell Campbell.

Older children and teens are invited to participate in the Express Yourself Summer Reading Program with a great lineup of programs, book discussions and workshops. Younger readers will set their reading goals and complete a reading log by joining Summer Reading camps and participating in Summer Read-a-Thons.

Program information is available at your community library, or on the Sarasota County library system Web site at [www.sclibs.net](http://www.sclibs.net).

Every child who participates in Sarasota County Libraries' 2009 Summer Reading Program will receive a free book, thanks to a grant request made by the Friends of the Library Alliance that will benefit young readers throughout Sarasota County. The grant is funded by the Gulf Coast Community Foundation and will provide books to an estimated 5,000 children.

Florida provides planning tools and resources for the Florida Library Youth Program through a federal grant. This year, the Sarasota County library system

is participating in the program in collaboration with libraries from across the country using the "Be Creative and Express Yourself" theme.

For more information contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask about the Sarasota County library system 2009 summer youth programs.

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