

Children Need their Libraries

Young people rely on Library services and programs for their educational, cultural and community needs

The Library is the largest provider of free educational and cultural programming in San Diego, and is depended on by thousands of children and teens every week. In fact, more than 150,000 children attended over 5,200 free programs at City libraries last year. Countless more visited the Library to check out books or other materials or access a computer. Among the ways the Library serves children are:

- The Library's Summer Reading Program has benefited more than one million preschoolers, children and teens since it was launched 86 years ago. In 2010, more than 31,000 children enrolled in the program. Nearly 44,000 attendees participated in more than 1,200 engaging and educational Library events as part of the vital literacy program.
- Thousands of students depend on the Library for access to free tutoring services, which many would be otherwise unable to afford. At the Mira Mesa Branch Library, up to 30 students meet weekly for one-on-one help with math, science, history, writing and other school projects from trained tutors.
- Hundreds of families visit their Library each week for story time sessions. At the North University Community Branch Library, story times are offered in more than 12 languages, including French, Mandarin, Spanish and Korean. These programs are regularly filled to capacity with families who depend on the Library to meet their cultural needs.
- At the Carmel Valley Branch Library, more than 50 teens meet weekly as members of the Future Engineers and Architects. Fifty additional teens are on the wait list for the program, which helps students hone their math skills and exposes them to college, internship and future employment opportunities.
- The Library provides a wealth of programs and services to help bridge the achievement gap for students throughout San Diego. Lead by industry leaders such as Kaplan and Princeton Review, free College Preparatory Workshops at City libraries ensure high school students are well-prepared for college entrance exams, a critical step in meeting their college goals.
- At the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa and City Heights/Weingart Branch Libraries, members of the La Jolla Symphony provide free, 10-week beginner violin classes to young patrons. In addition to learning to read music and play the violin, students learn about the inner workings of a professional symphony.
- At the Logan Heights Branch Library, more than 20 teens meet weekly for the music group "Project Unknown." Members have performed throughout San Diego to rave reviews and have learned to embrace community participation and volunteerism through their participation.
- At many branch libraries throughout the City, young readers have access to Early Literacy Learning Stations. The computer workstations are designed especially for children and features more than 50 top-rated educational software programs spanning seven curricular areas,

including reading, math, history and typing. For many children whose parents are not native English speakers, this technology provides vital assistance in learning to read.

- Nearly 80 parents and their young children come to the La Jolla/Riford Branch Library each month for the popular Baby Sign Language program, which include songs, nursery rhymes and favorite classic children's stories. Research shows that babies who utilize sign language have increased vocabulary and more advanced cognitive skills than their peers, even after they have stopped signing.
- The San Diego Public Library works with several Tales to Tails programs, which provide the opportunity for children to read out-loud to trained therapy dogs at branch libraries. This extremely popular program helps reluctant readers gain confidence and master reading skills.
- The San Diego Public Library has strong ongoing partnerships with neighborhood schools. Through classroom visits during and after school hours, students use libraries to conduct research, receive homework help, check out books and attend academic enrichment programs. For example, more than 33 schools are currently located within a two mile radius of the Central Library, providing vital access to information and technology. With many school libraries being shut down or lacking in funds to provide sufficient material collections, schools have become increasingly reliant on City libraries to help bridge the achievement gap for students throughout San Diego.

To learn more, visit SupportMyLibrary.org

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