

Summer Reading at Topeka and Shawnee County

by Jeff Dawson, Youth Services Coordinator, Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library

This year the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library (TSCPL) has opted to create a Summer Reading Program in 2006 that is unique to our community. Through many incarnations and much planning we came up with "Readings from TSCPL - Put Yourself in the Picture."



We are thinking of those colorful postcards; i.e., "Greetings from Portland, Maine" where unique local landscapes/buildings fill the letters. The postcards are colorful bringing travel and summer to mind (at least my mind!).

We hope to partner with local museums such as Brown v. Board, KS Historical Society, Overland Station, perhaps Heartland Park (auto racing), and the zoo, creating 'poster size' postcards featuring "Readings from the Topeka Zoo" etc. to hang at their location and the library.

Programming will feature our local Shawnee County partners, invoking literacy at their sites (with a healthy promotion for both our partners and the library) as well as the library. This theme fits nicely with the second annual Adult Summer Reading Program theme "Ticket to Read."

As always, our number one goal is maintaining students' reading levels across Shawnee County through the summer months by keeping reading fun and offering incentives (books) for children who complete our reading program.

This will be an excellent trial run for featuring our own Summer Reading theme and working with local partners. I am optimistic it could lead to future Summer Reading Program partnerships with the local school districts. Partnerships will ultimately involve many more children than the library could hope to reach alone.

Youth Services has been working on developing a theme since June. The 2006 Summer Reading Committee is Kyler Carpenter, Chair; Katie Escher, Vice Chair; Jennifer Dalton; LeAnn Sevy; Jean Gardner; and Suzanne Miller.