

# Summer Reading!

Summer is a great time to kick back, relax and, read.

Research shows that reading throughout the summer can prevent learning loss and expand vocabulary skills, while increasing overall knowledge. Reading is also convenient—you can take a book with you just about anywhere like camping trip or a day at the beach.

But, the best thing about books is that they can take you anywhere, teach you about anything, and help you meet anyone! Would you like to learn more about the endangered animals of the Amazon rainforest or the ancient sacred Egyptian tombs? Perhaps you enjoy reading along while detectives solve centuries old mysteries. You may also enjoy reading about female role models such as Girl Scouts Founder, Juliette Gordon Lowe. Books exist on nearly every interest and hobby.

Reading is an activity than can be done by yourself, but you can also read with or to others. Share the inspiration to read with others by creating your own book club or a Little Free Library, which is a “take a book, return a book” free book exchange. Little Free Libraries come in many shapes and sizes, but the most common version is a small wooden box of books. Anyone may take a book or bring a book to share. These are wonderful ways to share your favorite books with your community.

How to earn the Summer Reading patch the Girl Scout way:

## Steps:

1. **Discover**—Take time to think about topics you would be interested in reading about.
2. **Connect**—Visit your local library or bookstore to find books you would like to read.
3. **Take Action**—Create ways to inspire others to read during the summer months.

## Materials Needed:

In order to complete this patch, you'll need a few things:

- Pen and paper to make a list of books you would like to read.
- With the help of an adult/guardian, visit your local library or bookstore to find books you want to read.

## STEP

# 1

## Discover and explore topics you are interested in.

The summer months are a great time to explore new interests. Perhaps space and the solar system excites you, or maybe you are interested in finding out what life was like in decades past. Take a little time to think about what you would like to read about, and write down your thoughts. Don't forget to write down a goal for how many books you will read.

## STEP

# 2

## Connect with your local library or bookstore to borrow or purchase books.

Check out your local library. Some libraries have a summer reading program with lots of books for you to read. If you do not have a library card, now would be an excellent time to get one so you can borrow books for free. You may also want to check out local bookstores, yard sales, flea markets, and secondhand shops—they are all excellent places to purchase books at discounted prices! You may also find a fun list of books online by searching for summer reading lists for young people. Ask a trusted adult or your parent/guardian to take you to find books, or to check reading lists online. After you have borrowed or purchased some books, start reading!

## STEP

# 3

## Take Action by inspiring others to read during the summer.

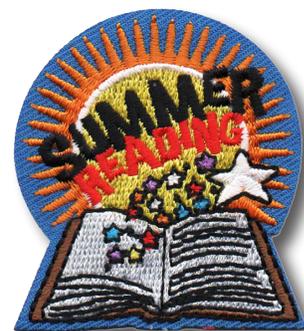
Now that you have read some good books, it is time for you to challenge your family and friends to join in. Brainstorm ways in which you might be able to inspire others to read over the summer months. Some examples include:

1. Start your own book club.
2. Create a Little Free Library within your community.
3. Create flyers about the benefits of reading during the summer, and distribute them on community bulletin boards.
4. Create a reading challenge with prizes for those who read the most books.
5. Collect donations of gently used books to donate to homeless shelters, daycare centers, pre-schools and/or nursing/personal care homes.
6. Read to younger children or elderly residents in nursing homes/personal care homes.

Remember, these are just examples—you can come up with your own unique ideas. There are so many fantastic ways to inspire others to read during the summer! Feel free to reach out to GSWPA to share your summer reading adventure.

### All done?

**CONGRATULATIONS!** You've completed all the necessary steps to earn the Summer Reading patch.



After completing the activities from each step, visit or call a Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania retail shop at **800-248-3355** to purchase your patch. A patch may be worn on the back of a vest, sash or tunic.