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**Immediate Release**

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## **Catch the Reading Bug and Metamorphosis Oklahoma's 2008 Summer Reading Programs**

Kids and teens can discover what's buzzing at their library this summer by Catching the Reading Bug and participating in their local library's summer reading program.

"This year's Oklahoma Summer Reading Program officially starts June 1st and revolves around insects and creepy crawly creatures," according to Adrienne Butler, youth services librarian with the Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL).

*Catch the Reading Bug* is the theme for children and *Metamorphosis @ Your Library* the theme for teens for the Statewide Summer Reading Program. While the theme changes from year to year, Butler said the mission is the same: "keep Oklahoma's children and youth reading and exploring during their summer vacation."

ODL has been sponsoring a statewide summer reading program since 1969. Every year, the summer library programs attract thousands of grade school children and each year more teens are becoming involved.

"Summer reading programs make educational reading activities fun and appealing to young people. When reading what they enjoy, they learn to love reading and become better readers," said Susan McVey, Director of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. "Statistics prove when children read

*(More)*

*(Catch the Reading Bug add 2)*

throughout the summer, they become better readers and better learners. I urge families to take advantage of the free reading program offered this summer at Oklahoma's public libraries.”

McVey added.

More than 90,000 children are expected to enroll and participate at public libraries across the state by reading books and attending special programs and activities. Each participant will receive a reading log, bookmark, book bag, and other free weekly reading incentives.

“Nearly all Oklahoma public libraries will present a variety of free summer activities including storytimes, guest performances, storyteller events, craft activities, live demonstrations, and other special opportunities,” Butler said.

Statewide sponsors assisting with this year’s summer library program include Sonic–America's Drive-In, The Oklahoman, and NewsOK.com.

The Oklahoma Department of Libraries is part of a group of 44 states that make up the national Collaborative Summer Library Program (CLSP) for 2008. The 2008 Oklahoma Statewide Summer Reading Program is funded with Federal **Library Services and Technology Act** funds, awarded to the Oklahoma Department of Libraries by the **Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services**.

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