

Summer Reading: Shortgrass Support

As previously mentioned, to help you succeed, Shortgrass supports library summer reading programs in a variety of ways, including organizing a summer concert tour of member libraries by a children's performer, providing assistance with running your programs, and providing some funding towards the purchase of program materials and supplies.

Allotment of Funds for Summer Reading

Shortgrass is pleased to be able to provide funding for the purchase of summer reading program materials and supplies. Each year, all member libraries receive a set dollar amount that can be used to support your summer reading program. This amount is based on our allotment formula, whereby funds are distributed proportionally based on the percentage of population served by each member library. (For further information on allotments and how they are determined, please see the "Cost Sharing" section of this manual, or contact Shortgrass.)

Funds will be used to support the summer reading program. A library may wish to purchase prizes, programming supplies, or snacks for their programs (pizza party, anyone?). Prizes may be ordered through a Shortgrass vendor (libraries will be sent an order form in January/February) or purchased elsewhere. If purchased elsewhere, receipts should be submitted to Shortgrass for reimbursement.

Libraries may choose to spend more than their allotment if the funds are available, but will not be reimbursed for this by Shortgrass. If a library overspends on their Shortgrass-purchased order, they will be invoiced for the difference.

Summer Performer Tour

Every year, Shortgrass arranges for and sponsors a children's performer to tour the library system as part of our libraries' summer reading programming. The summer performer is a free event provided to Shortgrass members to help you provide fun, quality programs to your patrons. All we ask is that you do your best to promote the performance at your library and in your community, to ensure the best possible turnout.

The event will usually take place in the library building itself, or in a nearby outdoor space. Other than ensuring there is enough space for the performance to take place (including a "stage" and audience area), and potentially access to an electrical outlet, your own preparations will be minimal. Performers are generally comfortable setting up and taking down their own equipment.

The tour will generally occur in July or August, depending on performer availability and libraries' preference for dates and times. Library Managers will always be asked to choose a time that works best for your library; Shortgrass will never force a time on you. Please note that libraries

can opt out of hosting the summer performer if it does not fit with the library's schedule or plans. No compensation in lieu of a performance will be offered to libraries who opt out of hosting the performance.

Programming Assistance

To help libraries deliver high-quality programming during the summer months, Shortgrass may be able to offer a summer programming visit from one of our trained staff members (generally the Client Services Librarian or a summer student). The Client Services Librarian will be in touch to make the necessary arrangements!