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MAYOR ADDS TO LIBRARY'S "SUMMER CHALLENGE"

Metro School with Most Summer Challenge Activities Completed to Have "Student Mayor for a Day"

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Mayor Megan Barry today raised the stakes for students at Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) as part of Summer Challenge, Nashville Public Library's (NPL) program to keep the city reading and learning over the summer months.

Children, teens and adults all over Nashville will read, learn and complete activities to win prizes this summer. Meanwhile, the Metro school whose students complete the most Summer Challenge activities will win a visit from Barry when they return to class this fall. From that school's top readers, Barry will draw a "Student Mayor for a Day."

"This summer, I want you to have fun and be safe. I also want you to read every day," said Barry in a [video message](#) to MNPS students. "If you keep reading and learning during summer break, you'll be more prepared for a strong academic year when you return to school this fall."

NPL encourages all Nashvillians to register for Summer Challenge [online](#) or at any [NPL location](#) and earn prizes as they read to combat "summer slide," the loss of learning that occurs when children stop reading over the summer months. Participants can earn points toward prizes such as a "Choose Your Own" pass to one of nine area attractions, including the Country Music Hall of Fame and Wave Country, as well as entries in drawings for a PlayStation®4 or an iPad™ Mini. The Mayor's challenge adds an extra incentive for MNPS students.



Mayor Megan Barry introduces Rose Park Magnet Middle School sixth grader Zachary Cecil, 2016 Student Mayor for a Day. This fall, Barry will choose another Student Mayor for a Day from the MNPS school whose students complete the most Summer Challenge activities.

In 2016, Rose Park Middle School earned top Summer Challenge honors and a visit from Mayor Barry, who drew then-sixth grader Zachary Cecil's name from the students assembled. Cecil later accompanied Barry to the grand opening of Nashville's Lyft offices and the Music City Walk of Fame induction ceremony for Faith Hill and Tim McGraw during his day-long tenure as Student Mayor.

"Our work with Metro Nashville Schools is critical to our city's success," said NPL Director Kent Oliver. "Summer Challenge is one way Nashville Public Library works to expand the traditional academic experience, giving Nashville's students as many opportunities as possible to stretch their minds. I want to thank Mayor Barry and Metro Schools for supporting the Library's summer learning initiative."

"We are fortunate to have a superb library system supporting our students, teachers and our community," said Metro Schools' Director Dr. Shawn Joseph. "Literacy is a top priority in our district, and we value our partnership with NPL. We applaud their efforts to give our children and families access to books, literacy-based activities and other learning tools to keep youngsters reading this summer in preparation for success in the new school year."

Summer Challenge runs through Aug. 12 and is made possible by the support of the [Nashville Public Library Foundation](#) (NPLF).

About Nashville Public Library

A Nashville Public Library (NPL) card is free, but it's also priceless. A [2016 study](#) by the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce calculated the value of NPL's services and collections at \$2,951 per Nashville family and the direct impact of NPL on Davidson County at \$94 million. NPL maintains a collection of millions of items, including books, periodicals, DVDs, CDs, audiobooks, and streaming and downloadable books, movies and music. The Library also offers more than 800 public-use computers, free art exhibits, educational programs, events for all ages, 24/7 reference assistance, online databases, interlibrary loan and special collections. Metro Archives, located at the Main Library, houses 5 million historic documents. Equal access is provided by the Talking Library audio reading service for the print disabled and Library Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. For more information, call 615-862-5800 or visit library.nashville.org.

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