



defiance public library system
Defiance • Sherwood • Hicksville

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release, May 1, 2026

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Defiance Public Library

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Johnson Memorial Library

116 W High St.

Hicksville, OH 43526

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Sherwood Branch Library

117 N Harrison

Sherwood, OH 43556

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'Unearth a Story' during Defiance Libraries' Summer Reading Challenge

[DEFIANCE] – Defiance Public Library System's (DPLS) 2026 Summer Reading Challenge for all ages will take place June 1-July 25 at the Defiance, Sherwood, and Johnson Memorial (Hicksville) libraries.

This year's theme, "Unearth a Story," focuses on dinosaurs, paleontology, and archaeology, and is designed to spark curiosity and exploration. The theme promotes digging into history, science, and literature, covering topics like rocks, fossils, family heritage, and local history.

All are invited to read along with DPLS for a chance to win prizes. In addition, June and July are packed with free family activities at the libraries (listed at defiancelibrary.org/calendar).

Teens/adults can register now for the reading challenge at defiancelibrary.beanstack.org, and kids can register beginning May 15. Children from birth to grade 6 can also participate by filling out a paper reading and activity log, which will be available for pickup at the libraries once the challenge begins.

Summer reading programs began in the 1890s to encourage school children to read during their summer vacation, use the library, and develop a habit of reading.

Community members are urged to keep in mind that all forms of reading count for the challenge, including ebooks, audiobooks, magazines, and more.

Defiance Public Library, 320 Fort St., will host a "Dinos & Donuts" Summer Reading kickoff event June 1 at the library from 10 a.m.-7 p.m., which will feature an indoor/outdoor scavenger hunt, donuts while supplies last, and assistance signing up for the Summer Reading

Challenge.

Sherwood Branch Library, 117 N. Harrison St., Sherwood, will host its kickoff event—complete with activity stations and flavored ice—on June 1 at 1 p.m.

Johnson Memorial Library's "Dinos & Donuts" kickoff event will take place June 1 at 11 a.m. at the library, 116 W. High St., Hicksville.

Those logging their reading online are also encouraged to download the Beanstack Tracker app for easy, on-the-go tracking.

For complete challenge information, including activity ideas, information about prizes, and more, visit defiancelibrary.org/summer, stop into one of your Defiance County libraries, or call 419-782-1456.

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