

**Reading is Revolutionary!**



**2026 Talking Book Services  
Summer Reading Program**



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# A Note from Talking Book Services Director

Summer reading is here!

Find some shade and read some great books this summer with Talking Book Services (TBS) and the National Library Service (NLS) to celebrate summer reading.

Our theme is “Reading is Revolutionary,” in conjunction with the statewide celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Revolutionary War. Known as South Carolina 250 (SC250), this statewide commemoration highlights the people, places, and ideas that shaped South Carolina during the American Revolutionary War. There will be nationwide events leading up to the Declaration of Independence anniversary on July 4, 2026, and TBS will be part of the celebration by posting audio, large-print, and e-braille resources on our webpage. Be sure to check us out at **[sctalkingbook.org](http://sctalkingbook.org)**.

Summer reading isn’t just a fun idea; it provides many brain benefits as well. Beyond entertainment and a bit of competition for those long, lazy summer days, research shows that consistent reading helps build and maintain the neural connections that keep our brains vibrant. For students, summer reading also helps prevent the “summer slide”—the loss of learning momentum that can take up to a month to regain after returning to school. So have some fun and do your brain some good at the same time!

**The TBS Summer Reading Program begins on June 1, and the NLS Summer Reading Program begins on June 15.**

**Visit [sctalkingbook.org](http://sctalkingbook.org) for more information or call 1-800-922-7818.**

Happy reading, everyone!

Jennifer Falvey Wilson, Director of Talking Book Services

# **2026 Summer Reading Program**

## **Talking Book Services**

Talking Book Services patrons are invited to participate in the TBS Summer Reading Program, an initiative supported by the South Carolina State Library to promote the joy of reading and encourage lifelong library use.

Summer reading participants are encouraged to set personal reading goals and take part in themed National Library Service events. At the end of the program, prizes will be awarded.

## **National Library Services**

The National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS), Library of Congress, administers a free national library program that provides braille and recorded materials to people who cannot see regular print or handle print materials. The NLS 2026 summer reading theme, "Unearth a Story," focuses on discovery involving dinosaurs, nature, and more. The programs target both kids and adults, promoting reading with engaging activities.

# Beanstack

## **Using the Beanstack app or website:**

You can log your reading on both the Beanstack web platform and the mobile app, making it easy to track anytime, anywhere.

## **How to join reading challenges:**

Participating in school or library challenges to earn badges, rewards, and even enter prize drawings — challenges often keep reading fun and motivating!

## **Tracking your reading progress:**

Record the books or minutes you've read to see your progress over time.

## **How to earn badges and rewards:**

As you hit milestones, you'll earn electronic badges.

## **Resources:**

There are step-by-step guides available—like Beanstack 101 guides for web and mobile. These can give you quick tutorials if you're new to Beanstack.

**Scan the QR code to access  
the Beanstack website**



# Track Your Summer Reading with Beanstack

## To use Beanstack:

1. Log in to the Beanstack App or Beanstack Website
2. Create a Beanstack account and register for the Summer Reading Program
3. If you've participated in Summer Reading before, please call **1-800-922-7818** or email us at **TBSBOOKS@statelibrary.sc.gov** to receive your login credentials.

## Ways to track your Summer Reading:

1. By the number of books you read
  - Provide the title of the book
  - Provide the name of the author of the book.
  - Provide the Digital Book Number
2. By the number of minutes you read
3. Utilize the Reading Tracker (page 11)

**Achieve all reading milestones until you reach completion!**

## For assistance:

**Call 1-800-922-7818 or email us at TBSBOOKS@statelibrary.sc.gov**

# Reading is Revolutionary: Summer Reading Recommendations

To view the full booklist for TBS Summer Reading, visit [sctalkingbook.org](http://sctalkingbook.org).

## **American Revolution, Non-Fiction, South Carolina Specific:**

- "Francis Marion and the Legend of the Swamp Fox"  
by Kate Salley Palmer  
DB Number: DBC05234
- "The Fate of the Day: The War for America, Fort Ticonderoga to Charleston, 1777-1780"  
by Rick Atkinson  
DB Number: DB129522
- "The Swamp Fox: How Francis Marion Saved the American Revolution"  
by John Oller  
DB Number: DB115956
- "Before they were heroes at King's Mountain"  
by K. Randell Jones  
DB Number: DBC06110

## **American Revolution, Fiction, Juvenile:**

- "Ghost Legion"  
by Johnny D. Boggs  
DB Number: DBC28223
- "Chains"  
by Laurie Halse Anderson  
DB Number: DB068396
- "My Brother Sam is Dead"  
by James Lincoln Collier  
DB Number: DB038902
- "April Morning"  
by Howard Fast  
DB Number: DB043072

### **American Revolution, Fiction, Adult:**

- "Rise to Rebellion"  
by Jeff Sharaa  
DB Number: DB052454
- "The Love Letter: A Novel"  
by Rachel Hauck  
DB Number: DB092146
- "Dawn's Early Light"  
by Elswyth Thane  
DB Number: DB035473
- "Someone Knows My Name"  
by Lawrence Hill  
DB Number: DB066532

### **American Revolution Non-Fiction:**

- "The Loyalists: The Story of those Americans who Fought Against Independence"  
by Donald Barr Chidsey  
DB Number: DB007830
- "Voices of 1776"  
by Richard Wheeler  
DB Number: DB008870
- "The American Revolution"  
by George Otto Trevelyan  
DB Number: DB008956
- "Navies of the American Revolution"  
by Anthony Preston  
DB Number: DB009254

# 2026 TBS Summer Reading Registration Form

Name (First and Last): \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please complete the Parent/Guardian section  
if under 18 years old.*

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you use BARD: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Reading goal is \_\_\_\_\_ books, or \_\_\_\_\_ hours.

# 2026 TBS Summer Reading Tracker

**Number of Hours I Have Read**  
*(Check all that apply)*



**2 Hours**



**4 Hours**



**6 Hours**



**8 Hours**



**10 Hours**

**I Have Read the Following Books**

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# National Library Service Adult Programming & Activities

Inspired by the “Unearth a Story” summer reading theme, stories are everywhere — embedded in landscapes, preserved in archives, carried through families, and reflected in individual lives. Here’s what has been confirmed for the summer so far from NLS and Braille Institute, as well as other partners!

The four “Narrated Soundscapes” are a collaboration of Braille Institute Library, National Parks Service Rangers, Library of Congress sound-designers, and NLS network librarians. More information coming soon.

**To learn more about these  
event, scan the QR code**



**NLS** NATIONAL  
LIBRARY SERVICE  
FOR THE BLIND  
AND PRINT DISABLED  
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

**Reading is Revolutionary - 12**

Date	Event
<b>June 15 TBA</b>	Kick Off Event - more information coming soon!
<b>June 16 at 4 p.m.</b>	Author Event: Best-selling author Peter Heller discusses his novel, <i>The Dog Stars</i> (DB75493), with public radio journalist Maeve Conran.
<b>June 22</b>	Narrated Soundscape “walk-through” of Badlands National Park: Kathleen Slocum, Accessible Library Services Manager at South Dakota Accessible Library Services, released June 22.
<b>June 30 at 4 p.m.</b>	National Parks as Living Archives: Multidisciplinary conversation with National Park Service employees about the stories of science, history, and culture living inside New Mexico’s National Park Designated sites.
<b>July 6</b>	Narrated Soundscape “walk-through” of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park: Matthew Brown, Managing Librarian at Hawaii State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled, released on July 6.
<b>July 14 at 4 p.m.</b>	Author Event: Blind authors Leona Godin, <i>There Plant Eyes</i> (BR23825, DB104014), and Georgina Kleege, <i>More Than Meets the Eye</i> (BR22550, DB93533), explore nonfiction as excavation — how the personal and the scholarly intertwine to bring buried narratives to the surface.
<b>July 20</b>	Narrated Soundscape “walk-through” of Everglades National Park: Felicia Brown, Talking Book Librarian, Special Services at Miami-Dade Public Library System, released July 20.
<b>July 28 at 4 p.m.</b>	“Excavating a Life: Megan Marshall” Author Event: Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer Megan Marshall will be in conversation with author Heather Clark about her memoir <i>After Lives</i> (DBC11807).
<b>August 3</b>	Narrated Soundscape “walk-through” of Cape Cod National Seashore: Kim Charlson, Executive Director at Perkins Library, released August 3.
<b>August 11 at 4 p.m.</b>	Fact Meets Fiction Historical Fiction Panel: Author-led exploration of the research, craft, and creative rewards of historical fiction.

# TBS Summer Reading Milestones & Prizes

The 2026 TBS Summer Reading prizes for each milestone are listed below.

## **Milestone 1: Read 2 books or 2 hours**

### **Prize: Die-Cut Digby Bookmark**

This fun die-cut bookmark is shaped like Digby, the friendly triceratops mascot of Uneath a Story™!, making it a standout way to keep your place while reading. The front features Digby in bold blue, while the back showcases the 2026 slogan, Uneath a Story, alongside Digby holding a book.

## **Milestone 2: Read 4 books or 4 hours**

### **Prize: Dino Librarian Single-Sided Bookmark**

The Dino Librarian design by Tom Bonson will appeal to youngsters — and the young at heart who love libraries. This friendly dinosaur librarian found your favorite book!

## **Milestone 3: Read 6 books or 6 hours**

### **Prize: Uneath a Story™ Lanyard**

The Uneath a Story™ lanyard features a bold Digby print marching across a light blue background with the official slogan in green and orange, this necklace-style lanyard is both fun and functional.

## **Milestone 4: Read 8 books or 8 hours**

### **Prize: Lens Clothes \*limited supply, the first 25 completions will be eligible to receive one**

Keep your view crystal clear with the “Uneath a Story”™ microfiber lens cloth. Perfect for cleaning eyeglasses, tablets, phones, or other handheld devices, this cloth combines practicality with this year’s adventurous dinosaur theme.

## **Milestone 5: Read 10 books or 10 hours**

### **Prize: Lanyard Badges**

Designed to pair perfectly with the themed lanyard, these badges celebrate the 2026 program and mascot.

**Completion Prizes:** All 2026 TBS Summer Reading participants will receive a completion prize that includes a tote bag, a mug, a hot-and-cold pack, and a magnifier with a built-in light.

### **Unearth a Story™ Reading Certificate**

Celebrate this summer's reading milestone with our colorfully designed "Dinos in the Stacks" certificate by Tom Bonson.

### **Grand Prize Drawings: Kindle Fire Generation 10**

