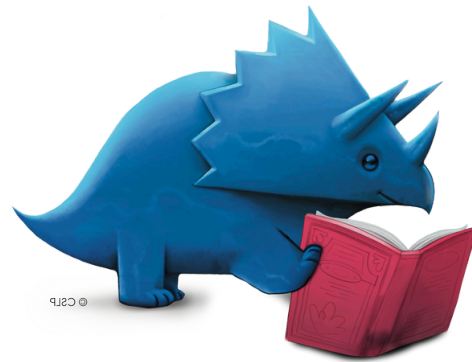


# Bennington Free Library & McCullough Library

## 2026 Summer Reading Challenge



# UNEARTH A STORY™



For the first time, the Bennington Free Library and the McCullough Library have partnered to deliver a collaborative summer reading program inspired by this year's theme, *Unearth A Story*. Young people ages 0-18 are invited to register. A special thank you goes to The Bank of Bennington for sponsoring our Summer Reading Challenge. Their generous support makes all of this possible!

**Scan QR code to register online**




Registration for this year's program begins June 2, and we've set up a couple ways to get started:

- Scan the QR code on this flyer and follow the steps to register
- In-person at either the Bennington Free Library or the McCullough Library in North Bennington

Once registered, fill out a tracking sheet any time you read. Tracking sheets are available at both libraries; stop by to pick one up and any time you need a new one and make sure to include all the reading you do! Whether it's chapter books, graphic novels, audiobooks, or being read aloud to - track your minutes spent with all of them, using the available sheets, or a tracking system that works for you. For every 200 minutes read between June 2nd and August 19th, you'll earn a ticket toward one of six unique prize baskets that will be raffled off at our Summer Reading Wrap-Up Party on August 22nd. Each reader who completes a thousand minutes of reading will earn a 1,000-Minute Milestone prize, which can be selected from either library.

We invite you to join us on June 27th for our Summer Reading Kickoff Event at Sunrise Family Resource Center's Summer Jam at Willow Park. If you haven't registered by then, be sure to stop by our booth during the festivities. There are many more fun programs happening in July and August. Take a look on the back of this flyer for the line-up! On August 22nd, please join us for our Summer Reading Wrap-Up Party at the Park-McCullough House. We will celebrate a summer full of reading with Zak Hampton's band, ice cream, and book prizes for all participants. Winning tickets will be drawn for ALL SIX prize baskets and a special prize will be awarded to a reader in each of two age categories with the most minutes!

 **JOHN G. McCULLOUGH FREE LIBRARY**  
Connect. Discover. Create. Hours:  
2 Main Street T 10am-8pm  
North Bennington, VT 05257 W, R, F 10am-6pm  
802.447.7121 S 10am-2pm

[mcculloughlibrary.org](http://mcculloughlibrary.org)

 **Bennington  
Free  
Library** Hours:  
101 Silver Street M 10am-7pm  
Bennington, VT 05201 T, W 10am-5pm  
802.442.9051 R 1-7pm  
F 1-5pm  
S 10am-1pm  
[benningtonfreelibrary.org](http://benningtonfreelibrary.org)

**Thank you to our sponsors:**



# UNEARTH A STORY™

Scan QR code to register online



**Tuesday, June 2, 2026 Registration begins!**

Sign up in person or online with the QR code

**Saturday, June 27, 2026, 11:00 AM**

Summer Jam at Willow Park, Bennington

Summer Reading Kickoff Event!

**Wednesday, July 1, 2026, 2:00 PM**

Jim Henson Double Feature: *Labyrinth* (PG) and *The Dark Crystal* (PG) at the Bennington Theater (screening courtesy of Kanopy, the McCullough Library's video streaming service.)

**Tuesday, July 7, 2026, 6:00 PM**

Rock n' Roll History with Marty Gitlin at The Left Bank

**Wednesday, July 15, 2026, 10:00 AM**

Dinoman at the Bennington Theater

**Thursday, July 23, 2026, 1:00 PM**

Finding Rhymes as Diggy Digs with Stephanie Phelan at the Bennington Free Library

**Tuesday, July 28, 2026, 1:00 PM**

Clay Play with Vermont Arts Exchange at the McCullough Library

**Wednesday, August 5, 2026, 3:00 PM**

Whale-mobile at the Park McCullough House Carriage Barn (**\*Ages 5+. Registration required. Registration available 7/1/26**)

**Wednesday, August 12, 2026, 1:00 PM**

Rocks & Minerals with Ken Carlsen at the Bennington Free Library

**Thursday, August 20, 2026, 1:00 PM**

Shay's Settlement Archaeology Exhibit at the Bennington Museum

**Saturday, August 22, 2026, 5:00 PM**

Summer Reading Wrap-up Party with Zak Hampton at the Park-McCullough House!



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