



LAUREL-JONES COUNTY
LIBRARY SYSTEM
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April 2, 2026

Dear Mayor Magee and Laurel City Council,

We are excited to begin planning our 2026 Summer Reading Program and are once again reaching out to our valued community partners for support. We need your help to make this year's program our most impactful yet!

Our mission remains the same: to provide educational, enriching, and fun activities that strengthen literacy skills throughout our community. Research shows that reading 4–6 books over the summer can help prevent the “summer slide” and protect reading achievement from spring-to-fall declines. When our community works together, we make a lasting difference in our children's lives.

In past summer events, we have welcomed more than 2,500 participants through engaging programs, reading challenges, and community-wide activities, including our Downtown Laurel Scavenger Hunt. For 2026, we are planning an exciting lineup of hands-on programs, contests, prizes, and special performances to encourage reading across all ages.

To support our 2026 Summer Reading Program, we would like to request \$3,000 in funding. Your contribution will enable us to offer engaging programs, purchase books and reading incentives, secure supplies and materials, and host professional presenters who bring energy and expertise to our community.

Of this total, \$2,000 will be used to secure a featured performance by *The Slam Crew* on July 7th at a local gymnasium (TBD). This high-energy basketball entertainment team combines impressive athleticism with powerful messages about teamwork, perseverance, and goal-setting. We anticipate this event will draw families from across Jones County and serve as a major highlight of our summer programming.

Your continued generosity enables us to serve the citizens of Jones County in meaningful ways. Together, we are building stronger readers and investing in our community's future.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Laurel-Jones County Library System.

Yours truly,

Kandice Evans
Children's Librarian