

2014 Gift of Reading



To celebrate the holiday season, the Tecumseh District Library is coordinating its traditional "Gift of Reading" project. This endeavor provides the Tecumseh Service Club with new books for children and teens to add to the traditional Christmas baskets of food, clothing, and toys. Our community's generous participation in this project each year is always heartwarming, especially when one realizes that many children have never been given a book to call their very own. During the 2013 holiday season, donations of 287 new books and \$400, plus an anonymous \$500 gift, were received. The library staff looks forward to a similar enthusiastic response to this year's "Gift of Reading".

Area residents may participate in two ways:

- Purchase new children's books and/or teen paperbacks from your favorite bookstore and bring the unwrapped books to the library's Circulation Desk between Friday, November 28th, and Monday, December 15th. (Please do not drop them off in the bookdrops.)
- Send a tax-deductible check payable to the "Tecumseh Service Club" to the Tecumseh District Library, 215 North Ottawa Street, in care of "The Gift of Reading" by Monday, December 15th. Designated shoppers from the Service Club will use these donations to buy additional books for the project.

Beginning Thanksgiving weekend, the library staff will add your donated books to the Gift of Reading display near the Information Desk. In mid-December, the books will be delivered to the Tecumseh Service Club, whose volunteers will add the books to the Christmas baskets for distribution throughout the Tecumseh community.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What kinds of books are best?

- **Brand new books with good bindings**
Because these will be treasured Christmas gifts, "hand-me-down" or "gently used" donations will not be accepted!
- **Picture books**
 - Books with large print and vivid illustrations, by such authors and illustrators as Jan Brett, Eric Carle, Doreen Cronin, Tomie De Paola, Steven Kellogg, David McPhail, Laura Numeroff, Jerry Pinkney, Patricia Polacco, Rosemary Wells, Mo Willems, and Karma Wilson
 - Books about Arthur and D. W., Berenstain Bears, Clifford the Big Red Dog, Curious George, Fancy Nancy, Fly Guy, Franklin, Froggy, Llama Llama, Pete the Cat, Thomas the Tank Engine, and Very Fairy Princess.
 - Alphabet books
 - Hidden picture series such as Can You See What I See?, I Spy, Look-Alikes, and Where's Waldo?
 - Sturdy, colorful board books for toddlers - especially needed this year
- **Juvenile and Tween fiction**
 - Books by popular children's authors, such as Fred Bowen, Beverly Cleary, Kate DiCamillo, Dan Gutman, Margaret Haddix, Will Hobbs, Gordon Korman, Mike Lupica, Wendy Mass, Brandon Mull, R. J. Palacio, Gary Paulsen, Rick Riordan, and Brian Selznick
 - Popular juvenile series such the American Girls Collection, Ballpark Mysteries, Bink & Gollie, Boxcar Children, Calendar Mysteries, Emily Windsnap, Flat Stanley, Frankie Pickle, Geronimo Stilton, Hank the Cowdog, Ivy + Bean, Jigsaw Jones, Judy Moody, "Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo!", Little House on the Prairie, Magic Tree House, Michigan Chillers, The Puppy Place, and the Who Was...? biography series
 - Popular tween series such as Beacon Street Girls, Beyonders, Big Nate, Brixton Brothers, Candy Apple Books, Fablehaven, Guardians of Ga'hoole, Last Dragon Chronicles, Origami Yoda, Theodore Boone, and Twice Upon a Time
- **Juvenile non-fiction**
 - Books about animals, Civil War, construction equipment, crafts, fairy tales, folklore, drawing, dinosaurs, LEGOS, nursery rhymes, people, science, space, sports, trains, and trucks
 - Any book in the Eyewitness series
 - Poetry collections by Julie Andrews, Caroline Kennedy, Jack Prelutsky and Shel Silverstein
 - Educational activity books, coloring books, pop-up books, lift-the-flap books
- **Teen paperbacks** with attractive covers, including the newest titles in popular romance, mystery, adventure, fantasy, and science fiction series by Ally Carter, Cassandra Clare, Suzanne Collins, Chris Crutcher, James Dashner, Gail Giles, Erin Hunter, Patrick Jones, Gordon Korman, Pittacus Lore, Chris Lynch, Stephanie Meyer, Garth Nix, James Patterson, Tamora Pierce, Cynthia Rees, Darren Shan, Sara Shepard, and Scott Westerfeld. For more suggestions, visit YA Book at <http://www.yabookblogdirectry.blogspot.com>.

Why should the books be donated unwrapped?

The Service Club members will look at each book and sort them into categories by age levels and subject areas. Then they will match the titles to the reading levels and interests of the children whose families are receiving Christmas baskets. Feel free to enclose a bookmark, note or card.

Gift of Reading

OTHER WAYS TO HELP

- * Help your children earn money towards the purchase of the gift books.
- * Encourage your children to make your family's selections of titles to donate.
- * Encourage your clubs and organizations to participate.
- * Encourage your children's classes and PTO's to participate.