

# Delaware Libraries Launch 2020 Summer Reading Program

(Dover, DE) Delaware's First Lady Tracey Quillen Carney will host a virtual kick-off of the 2020 statewide Summer Library Reading Program, *Imagine Your Story*, on Wednesday, June 17 at 10 a.m. with State Librarian Dr. Annie Norman. The launch is co-sponsored by the Delaware Division of the Arts and will feature a virtual performance by [Turtle Dance Music](#) with Matt Mazar.

"Promoting foundational language skills is a critical part of giving all of Delaware's children a 'first chance' to succeed," said **First Lady Tracey Quillen Carney**, who convenes the [First Chance](#) Delaware initiative and serves as honorary chair of the Delaware Library Card Campaign and the Dolly Parton Imagination Library pilot program. "The library habit supports educational success and also supports strong families, with two-generation programs and access to a range of services. I'm very proud of my Delaware library card, because of what it does for me and what it represents for our community."

The virtual kick-off can be accessed [at the Delaware Libraries website](#), along with details about the program and registration.

Delaware libraries are noted for hosting the longest running statewide public library summer reading program in the nation. Now in its 42nd year, the annual Summer Library Reading Program provides early literacy programs to help children build and develop reading and language skills; teen programs that motivate teens to read and discuss literature; and programs that encourage adults to experience the joy of reading.

“Librarians help to generate a passion for reading and learning,” said **Governor John Carney**. “A healthy reading habit motivates, inspires, encourages creativity and prevents the summer slide.”

“For more than 40 years – for generations of Delawareans – Delaware libraries have been cultivating reading and learning passions,” said **State Librarian Dr. Annie Norman**. “Whatever your interest, whatever your talent, the library supports it.”

Young “pre-readers” (children who can’t yet read) can get credit for books that are read to them. Throughout the summer, online this year, libraries provide a variety of fun and educational arts, cultural, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) programs to encourage reading and spark curiosity.

Registration for the Summer Library Reading Program at all public libraries is free [online](#). Incentive badges are awarded based on reading and activity milestones. Delaware libraries encourage Delawareans of all ages to track their reading and learning during the summer and throughout life. A variety of tips, tools, and techniques for tracking individual interests are available on the [Unleash Inner Genius](#) guide.

Visit the [Summer Library Reading Program](#) for the schedule of online events throughout the summer. The Performing Arts component of the program, including Turtle Dance Music, is sponsored in partnership with the Delaware Division of the Arts.

### **About:**

Summer arts programs are supported by the [Delaware Division of Libraries](#) and, in part, by a grant from the [Delaware Division of the Arts](#), a state agency, in partnership with the [National Endowment for the Arts](#). The Division of Arts promotes Delaware arts events on [DelawareScene.com](#)

The [Delaware Division of Libraries](#), a state agency dedicated to unleashing the potential in all Delawareans in partnership with [Delaware Libraries](#) and the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#), offers free access to the online catalog ([delawarelibraries.org](http://delawarelibraries.org)); Wi-Fi; computers/internet; eBooks; programs/workshops; community partnerships; and more.

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