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Press Release

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Texas State Library and Archives Commission

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Texas State Library and Archives Commission awards Texas Reads Grants to reading programs

AUSTIN, Texas – The Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) awards the Allen Public Library, the Cedar Park Public Library, the Mesquite Public Library and the West Public Library, with Texas Reads grants totaling \$8,900 to promote reading and literacy in local Texas communities.

Issued to public libraries that are members of the Texas Library System the grants fund reading programs from the revenue of Texas Reads specialty license plates ordered from the Texas Department of Transportation.

“The Texas Reads license plate is a great way for people to show their support of libraries and reading programs in Texas,” said Peggy D. Rudd, state librarian and director. “By purchasing the plate, drivers are making a bold statement about how important our library reading programs are in our communities.”

TSLAC received 14 Texas Reads grant proposals. The exciting projects that have been funded are:

1. **“Allen Reads”** (\$3,000) to the Allen Public Library, located in Allen, Texas north of Dallas. The community-wide reading program will select books, according to each population’s interests with one adult and one children’s book on a related theme so the community can connect through a shared reading experience.
2. **“Texas Two Step / Texas Writers for Texas Readers”** (\$1,500) to the Cedar Park Public Library, located in Cedar Park, Texas, north of Austin. The multi-dimensional program is designed to encourage parents and teens to read cross-generational books and share their perceptions. It will also promote local Texas authors.
3. **“Summer Teen Café”** (\$2,000) to the Mesquite Public Library, located in Mesquite, Texas, east of Dallas. The program will expand library services to teens during the summer months by offering targeted programming of interest to teens. It will also encourage teens to read both for fun and for extended learning opportunities.
4. **“When Teenagers Read”** (\$2,400) to the West Public Library located in West, Texas, north of Waco. The program will allow local teens to be trained by experienced storytellers and to present programs for area children attending story time or summer reading club programs.

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The Texas Reads specialty license plate can be purchased from each county tax assessor-collector. When ordering the Texas Reads plate, \$22 of the \$30 fee goes to the Texas Reads program in support of reading and literacy projects. The Texas State Library and Archives Commission issues grants to public libraries for the purpose of implementing reading and literacy programs.

“The grants reach people in all population groups,” said Wendy Clark, TSLAC Loan Star Libraries & Texas Reads program manager. “Children, teens and adults are all aided in reading and literacy. We would love for more people to purchase the license plates so we can offer more grants.”

After ordering, patrons will receive their Texas Reads plates to place on their vehicle in about two weeks. The Tocker Foundation provided the initial start-up fee to begin the production of the new plates.

DIRECT LINK TO ORDER TEXAS READS PLATES:

<http://rts.texasonline.state.tx.us/NASApp/txdotrts/SpecialPlateOrderServlet?grpid=60&pltid=112>



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ABOUT THE TEXAS STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES COMMISSION

TSLAC helps Texans find the information they seek. The people of Texas utilize TSLAC services and programs to effectively use information and materials that improve their lives, the lives of their families, and their communities. Since 1909, TSLAC has carried out a commitment of making information work for all Texans by providing history and genealogical services, federal and state government documents, electronic research, and library services to Texans of all ages who are unable to read standard print material due to visual, physical, or reading disabilities. For more information, go to <http://www.tsl.state.tx.us> or email pio@tsl.state.tx.us.