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NATIONAL SUMMER LEARNING WEEK (JULY 12-16) TO SHINE A SPOTLIGHT ON THE NEED FOR FUN, QUALITY SUMMER EXPERIENCES FOR EVERY YOUNG PERSON IN AMERICA

National Summer Learning Association's Week-Long Celebration Launches with National PSA Campaign, Virtual Summer Splash Events and Family Resources to Help Students Recharge, Heal, and Reclaim the Joy of Summer

Editor's Note: Interviews available with subject matter experts on summer learning, as well as opportunities to visit program sites and interview participants and program directors.

WASHINGTON, DC (July 9, 2021) – Summer is a time for fun, exploration, and yes, for learning, especially after a year of COVID-19 setbacks for America's most vulnerable students. That's why the [National Summer Learning Association](#) (NSLA) leads the annual National Summer Learning Week (July 12-16) – an awareness and advocacy celebration to elevate the importance of keeping kids learning, earning, safe, and healthy every summer, ensuring they return to school each fall ready to succeed and thrive.

"High quality summer and afterschool programs can change the trajectory of a young person's life. This year, our focus is on supporting academic and social-emotional gains, and celebrating educators, youth providers, and community partners who are the true heroes providing safe, healthy and enriching experiences throughout this pandemic," said Aaron Philip Dworkin, CEO of the National Summer Learning Association.

Daily themes throughout the week are designed to inspire summer learning programs across the nation, parents and caregivers to participate in activities during the celebration and to focus attention on different critical summer issues like nutrition and social emotional wellness to literacy and the arts or the enriching possibilities of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and youth employment opportunities for older youth.

Summer is also about ensuring our country's most vulnerable kids have access to good nutrition. By dedicating one day specifically to health and wellness, NSLA draws attention to the inequities of summer, particularly around food insecurity for families. According to the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), the Summer Meals Act of 2021 (S. 1170/H.R.783) is critical in combatting summer hunger and would eliminate common barriers to participation in the Summer Nutrition Program.

National Summer Learning Week Highlights include:

- NSLA will launch an **iHeartMedia PSA campaign, voiced by U.S. Department of Education, Secretary Miguel Cardona** and a call for families to visit **DiscoverSummer.org** – a new online destination, developed in response to COVID-19, to help families discover affordable summer programs, summer meals, youth employment opportunities, mentors and a sea of summer enrichment resources.
- Community members, families and media can join in free virtual **Summer Splash Events** that will focus on the theme of the day and bring notable leaders, authors, gamers, artists, educators and health experts to the national virtual stage. See event schedule, fun raffle prizes and [registration here](#).



- Announcement of the **New York Life Foundation, Excellence in Summer Learning Award** Finalists, which recognizes exceptional summer programs that serve as national examples of quality and innovation in summer learning.
- Release of a **Summer Family Guide** featuring the Learning Heroes' Summer Recharge Tip sheet and advice on identifying quality summer programs.
- In a coast-to-coast kick-off to National Summer Learning Week, Nintendo and NSLA will take over all Clear Channel Outdoor nationwide digital displays on July 12th, calling on parents and students alike to join in a summer of creativity and fun by designing video games with **Game Builder Garage for Nintendo Switch**.
- Camp Invention as a featured site where participants can “step up to the mic to find their unique voice” through their Golden Microphone learning adventure.
- In shining a bright light on summer, NSLA invites everyone to join in a special [social media campaign](#) entitled: **Our Time to Shine** and to share their stories of inspiration on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and/or TikTok using the social media frames and #SummerLearningWeek hashtag with instructions found here.

For more than 25 years, NSLA has been the leading national nonprofit focused on closing the achievement and opportunity gap, which research shows grow most dramatically over the summer months. Recently, Summer Learning has received recognition from policymakers, through the American Rescue Plan, as playing a critical role in America’s educational recovery. Coupled with Federal and State funding, summer learning presents an untapped opportunity to uplift learners and education leaders in engaging learning experiences beyond the traditional classroom. High quality summer programs, whether community-based or within a school are hopeful bridges to equity and learning opportunities that provide safe, inclusive spaces where all kids, regardless of zip code, can grow and thrive.

National Summer Learning Week is supported in part by the following corporate, media and program partners: American Camp Association, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Discovery Education, Game Builder Garage for Nintendo Switch, Clear Channel Outdoor, iHeartMedia, Learning Heroes, Urban Libraries Council, National Center for Afterschool and Summer Enrichment (NCASE), New York Life Foundation, and The Wallace Foundation.

To read more about Summer Learning Week, access daily themes, toolkits and more, visit: <https://www.summerlearning.org/summer-learning-week/>.

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About National Summer Learning Association

The National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) is the only national nonprofit exclusively focused on closing the achievement gap by increasing access to high-quality summer learning opportunities. NSLA recognizes and disseminates what works in summer learning, develops and delivers capacity-building offerings and convenes and empowers key actors to embrace summer learning as a solution for equity and excellence in education. For more information, visit www.summerlearning.org.