

**** **MEDIA ALERT** ****



**School's Out. Now What?
Communities Across America to Celebrate
National Summer Learning Day on July 12**

Hundreds of communities join the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) in tackling summer learning loss and ensuring kids stay safe, healthy and active this summer

(Baltimore, MD – July 5, 2018)- Hundreds of libraries, museums, non-profits, municipalities, school districts, Major League Baseball teams (Braves, Padres and Orioles), and Mayors of cities and towns across America will host nearly 1,000 science, math, reading, sports, and arts-related events to celebrate National Summer Learning Day **Thursday, July 12, 2018**.

Literacy will take center stage as part of this year's National Summer Learning Day with a National Read-Aloud of the award-winning book, *Trombone Shorty*, the true story of a boy in New Orleans (author Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews) who follows his passion to become a professional musician. The book's acclaimed illustrator and 2016 Caldecott Honor recipient, Bryan Collier, will serve as this year's national Summer Learning Ambassador. Library systems in Chicago, King County (WA), Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Nashville, New Orleans, and New York will serve as flagship Summer Learning Day sites for the National Read-Aloud. NSLA encourages kids and families everywhere to [grab a copy](#) of *Trombone Shorty* and join in the National Read Aloud at home, a local library or under a shady tree at the park.

BACKGROUND

Research confirms that many kinds of informal or high-quality formal enrichment opportunities can make a difference in stemming summer learning loss and ultimately closing the country's achievement gap. See *Summer by the Numbers* [Infographic](#). Many communities are making measurable progress in providing the services and supports students need to stay safe and stay on track in the school year ahead but there's still much work ahead. In fact, a recent RAND Corporation/Wallace Foundation [study](#), the largest-ever on summer learning, showed students with high attendance (20 or more days) in free, voluntary, district-based summer learning programs experienced educationally meaningful benefits in math and reading. The study also found that high attendance in voluntary summer programs isn't the only factor in student outcomes. Students who received at least 25 hours of math or 34 hours of English Language Arts instruction in a given summer did better than control group students on tests in fall 2013 and fall 2014.

- WHAT:** National Summer Learning Day is a national advocacy day, led by the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA), aimed at elevating the importance of keeping kids learning, safe and healthy every summer so students start the school year strong and can thrive all year long.
- WHEN:** Thursday, July 12, 2018
- WHERE:** **Nationwide:** Hundreds of communities and cities across the country will host literacy, STEM, sports, and arts events or programs to celebrate National Summer Learning Day.
- EXPERTS:** National Summer Learning Association experts available for comment: **Matthew Boulay PhD**, NSLA Founder and Chief Executive Officer; **Margaret McKenna**, NSLA Board Chair and former president of the Walmart Foundation; **Monica Logan**, NSLA Vice President of Programs and Systems Quality; **Rachel Gwaltney**, NSLA Director of Policy and Partnerships.

NATIONAL SUMMER LEARNING DAY HIGHLIGHTS

As part of National Summer Learning Day, the National Summer Learning Association announces an inaugural #LoveLearning Campaign with retailer Lands' End, a classic American lifestyle brand. Through the #LoveLearning Campaign, Lands' End intends to further its commitment to families and education through a new #LoveLearning Art Contest and Summer Program Award targeting informal learning experiences that advance student enrichment and family engagement around environmental stewardship, STEM and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, math, arts). The winning program will receive a \$10,000 award. The [Lands' End #LoveLearning Art Contest](#) goes live on July 12 and ends August 12, 2018. The contest, open to children ages 4-18 years, is designed to spark creative expression around a love of learning and the joy of discovery. Winners will be selected in different age groups based on interpretation of the contest theme, creativity, and quality.

Visit summerlearning.org/events to find Summer Learning Day events or programs throughout the country and additional details on the Lands' End #LoveLearning Campaign.

FLAGSHIP SUMMER LEARNING DAY PROGRAMS/EVENTS:

- **Chicago** – Bryan Collier, award-winning illustrator of *Trombone Shorty* and this year's Summer Learning Day Ambassador will herald in National Summer Learning Day with Rahm's Reader's Summer Learning Challenge events taking place across Chicago Public Library's (CPL) 80 branches. 300 kids will visit CPL's Winter Garden for music-making, a jazz-infused story hour and a free copy of *Trombone Shorty*, courtesy of Clear Channel Outdoor, as well as a toy pack donated by Hilco Global.
- **Baltimore** – Kids and parents will have the opportunity to hang out with the Baltimore Orioles Bird, hear from Orioles employees, engage in a Summer Slugger trivia games, and more at the Baltimore Enoch Pratt Free Library!
- **Nashville** – On Summer Learning Day, Wishing Chair Productions – the Nashville Public Library's crew of full-time performing artists - will bring their "String City: Nashville's Tradition of Music and Puppetry" show to the Country Music Hall of Fame in downtown Nashville. This show

features 90 puppets and chronicles the history of country music and how Nashville became Music City, USA.

- **San Diego** –Kids will hear from Padres staff and players about the importance of practicing math and literacy skills throughout the summer and play a Summer Slugger trivia game for a chance to win fun prizes at the San Diego Library
- **San Francisco** - [San Francisco Public Library](#) is all jazzed up about Trombone Shorty and will feature Move and Groove dance parties, craft activities and read-alouds across 21 of their library branches on July 12.
- **Salt Lake City** – [Salt Lake City Public Library](#) celebrates with a special kids’ story time featuring the book Trombone Shorty, leading to an interactive exploration of the science of sound!
- **New York** Public Library (NYPL) - National Summer Learning Day marks the mid-way point in the Library’s Summer Reading program. NYPL branches in the Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island will host music-themed storytimes that feature Bryan Collier’s picture book Trombone Shorty. Boroughs will host programs that include art workshops through a partnership with the Children’s Museum of Manhattan, as well as themes inspired by music, the cosmos and rockets for children and teens through the Library’s Hands on Science Program.
- **New Orleans** Public Library – The home of famous musician Troy Andrews will celebrate with a reading of Trombone Shorty; discuss living in New Orleans while making sound sandwich instruments.
- **Other cities:** Check out NSLA’s Summer Learning Day [Event Tracker](#) for events happening across the country.

National Summer Learning Day is supported in part by the following corporate, media and program partners: Carson-Dellosa Publishing Group, Clear Channel Outdoor Americas, iHeartMedia, Litton Entertainment, EverFi, Scholastic Inc., Lands’ End, Learning Heroes, Association for Library Service to Children, the Association of Children’s Museums, Afterschool Alliance, National League of Cities and the National Center for Afterschool and Summer Enrichment.

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About the 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 community 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
