

GO Cumberland Provides Oceans of Possibilities

Get Outdoors (GO) Cumberland is a new element to the Cumberland County Library System's summer learning program, designed to exercise both the body and the mind as it gets families outside, doing activities together, talking, walking and checking out library books. Dive Deep this summer by visiting any Cumberland County Library and reading books about coral reefs, jellyfish, lighthouses, and more! Through your library's Beanstack app, log your summer activities to make them count and earn amazing prizes. And in addition to GO Cumberland activities, there are hundreds of other free library programs planned just for you!

"We want to encourage families to do things as a group, not sit in front of the TV but get outdoors and find new places to explore," said Sandra Gladfelter, WellSpan health educator. "We want families to build great memories and find great places to visit in their county."

GO Cumberland promotes reading and physical exercise through letterboxing, an activity in which families follow written clues to locate wooden marker posts that have been hidden in parks in counties in the WellSpan region. This year, the posts all have etchings on them of ocean-themed icons which correspond to this year's GO theme of "Oceans of Possibilities."

Families can visit any public library in Cumberland County to pick up a booklet with the clues to find area posts. The booklets also offer reading suggestions of books that correspond with the theme and include some facts about the icon on each post. GO Cumberland gives participants a chance to win prizes at the completion of the program. Visits are logged using an app called Beanstack, which is part of the program. Participants also can record their visit by writing down a four-digit code featured on each post.

GO programs are also available in Adams, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon and York counties. Gladfelter said the GO programs are a wonderful partnership with WellSpan, area libraries and area parks, which all work together to create a fun, summertime activities for area families. The programs also create communities via the Facebook pages hosted by each county's GO program, on which participants can post photos of their visits and share tips on how to find icons.

"The pages are very active. People will post, 'I am at this park and I can't find the post,' and someone else will get online and help them out," Gladfelter said. "It's like a fun club."

How Get Outdoors (GO) Cumberland Works

There are fifteen "anchors" – posts with a unique etching attached –hidden in local and state parks in Cumberland County. Visit your Cumberland County public library to register for the Get Outdoors! program, and you'll receive a guidebook, called a Wayfinder, and a rubbing sheet that you can use to record your discoveries. In the Wayfinder, you'll find directions to follow that will help you locate each anchor.

When you find the anchor, you'll see the etching with a 4-digit code. You can use your rubbing sheet and rub over the sheet with a crayon or pencil to reveal that anchor's artwork and code, but make sure you remember the 4-digit code by taking a picture or writing it down. You can enter the code online using the Beanstack app to receive credit for that hike. All hikes must be recorded no later than Monday, August 22 to receive a participation prize and earn entries into the grand prize drawing.

Visit www.gocumberland.org for more information and to download your own copy of the Wayfinder and other materials!

