Tennessee Friends of Libraries Week - An Ideas Tool Kit

PROCLAMATIONS & ARTICLES

To recognize and celebrate the volunteer and fundraising work of Friends in local community libraries, the American Library Association United for Libraries designates a week in October as Friends of Libraries Week.

Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam has proclaimed
October 16-22, 2016, as Friends of Libraries Week in Tennessee
and encourages all citizens to join in this worthy observance.

To help local groups initiate recognitions in their communities, the Friends of Tennessee Libraries (FOTL) has compiled this Tool Kit of Ideas.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Governor Haslam Proclaims Friends of Libraries Week

Nashville, TN - To recognize the incredible amount of volunteer work and fundraising that citizens do to support their local public libraries, Governor Bill Haslam has proclaimed October 16-22, 2016, as Friends of Libraries Week and encourages all citizens to join in this worthy observance.

“At a time when community libraries are being used more than ever, offering new technologies and formats while budgets are shrinking, citizen Friends of Libraries are critical to the success of their libraries,” said Don Reynolds, President of the Friends of Tennessee Libraries (FOTL). “Friends support the library and expand its effectiveness in the community. Friends also provide an opportunity for individuals to make a positive contribution to their community.”

Residents in local communities join together as Friends of the Library to support, improve, and promote their public libraries as an essential institution of a democratic society. Public libraries are an American value, born of the idea that a free people should have free access to all kinds of ideas and information. Members volunteer in a variety of ways to help provide high-quality services by raising funds and stimulating the use of the library.

Friends of the Library understand the importance of library service to the community since most citizens could never afford to buy all of the books, magazines, newspapers, DVDs, CDs, databases, software, and computers the library offers individuals and families.

Friends of Tennessee Libraries is a volunteer organization of individuals and groups dedicated to supporting Tennessee libraries and local Friends of Library Groups. More information is available at www.friendstnlibraries.org

[Include information about Friends group(s) in local library(ies).]
WHEREAS, Friends of Tennessee Libraries and local Friends of Library groups across the state are dedicated to the support of libraries as institutions essential to democracy and life-long learning; and

WHEREAS, Friends of Tennessee Libraries support local Friends groups help their libraries integrate the library thoroughly with the life and work of the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, Friends groups advocate for funding that will provide libraries with the necessary print and electronic materials, expert assistance in research, technology equipment, and services for all ages from the very young to the senior citizen; and

WHEREAS, Friends groups promote the joys and benefits of literacy, learning, and economic well-being for Tennesseans of all ages by investing time and effort in raising supplementary funds to enhance library resources and programming; and

WHEREAS, Friends groups also volunteer many hours of work to help libraries provide services and materials to their patrons; and

WHEREAS, the gifts of time and commitment by Friends of Libraries in Tennessee set a positive example of civic engagement that benefits both volunteers and their communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim October 16-22, 2016 as

Friends of Libraries Week

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this seventeenth day of August, 2016.

[Signature]
Governor

[Signature]
Secretary of State
City of Brentwood

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Friends of the Brentwood Library raise money that enables our library to move from good to great providing the resources for additional programming, much needed equipment, support for children’s summer reading and special events throughout the year; and,

WHEREAS, the work of the Friends highlights on an on-going basis the fact that our library is the cornerstone of the community providing opportunities for all to engage in the joy of life-long learning and connect with the thoughts and ideas of others from ages past to the present; and

WHEREAS, the Friends understand the critical importance of well funded libraries and advocate to ensure that our library gets the resources it needs to provide a wide variety of services to all ages including access to print and electronic materials, along with expert assistance in research, readers’ advisory and children’s services; and

WHEREAS, the Friends’ gift of their time and commitment to the library sets an example for all in how volunteerism leads to positive civic engagement and the betterment of our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Mayor of the City of Brentwood, I do join with the Board of Commissioners in proclaiming October 18-22, 2015 as Friends of Libraries week in the City of Brentwood and urge all citizens to join the Friends of the Library and thank them for all they do to make our library and community so much better.

Mayor Regina Smithson

Adopted: October 12, 2015

Deborah Hedgepath
City Recorder Deborah Hedgepath
PROCLAMATION

Whereas: Putnam County Library Friends raise money that enables our library to move from good to great - providing the resources for additional programming, much needed equipment, support for children’s summer reading, and special events throughout the year; and

Whereas: the work of the Friends highlights on an on-going basis the fact that our library is the cornerstone of the community providing opportunities for all to engage in the joy of life-long learning and connect with the thoughts and ideas of others from ages past to the present; and

Whereas: the Friends understand the critical importance of well-funded libraries and advocate to ensure that our library gets the resources it needs to provide a wide variety of services to all ages including access to print and electronic materials, along with expert assistance in research, readers’ advisory, and children’s services; and

Whereas: the Friends’ gift of their time and commitment to the library sets an example for all in how volunteerism leads to positive civic engagement and the betterment of our community; and

Now, therefore, I, Ricky Shelton, Mayor of the City of Cookeville, do hereby proclaim the week of October 18-24, 2015 as

FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES WEEK

in Cookeville, Tennessee and do urge everyone to join the Putnam County Library Friends and thank them for all they do to make our library and community so much better.

This 15th day of October, 2015.

Mayor, Ricky Shelton
A PROCLAMATION
On Behalf Of The People Of
KNOX COUNTY
By His Honor The Mayor
Tim Burchett
To Publicly Recognize

FRIENDS OF KNOX COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY WEEK

Whereas; Knox County has enjoyed a rich tradition of library services for over 125 years; and
Whereas; its county-wide system reaches every citizen in the community; and
Whereas; The Friends of the Knox County Public Library is a part of a nationwide network of
Friends organizations; and
Whereas; The Friends of the Knox County Library has provided volunteers and financial support
for 45 years; and
Whereas; Friends of the Knox County Public Library are dedicated to fostering a love of libraries,
books and reading in the Knox County area by community outreach, advocacy and
support of the Knox county Public Library System and staff; and
Whereas; Knox County wishes to thank the Friends of the Knox County Public Library for their
support of the community and its readers.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM BURCHETT, KNOX COUNTY MAYOR, do hereby
proclaim October 18-24, 2015 as

Friends of Knox County Public Library Week

In Knox County, and urge all citizens to join me in this observance.

Given under my hand and affixed with the
Seal of the Knox County, Tennessee

Mayor Tim Burchett
PROCLAMATION

Putnam County, Tennessee

WHEREAS, Randy Porter, The Putnam County Executive, is proud to honor the Friends of Libraries of Putnam County, Tennessee for their hard work and dedication in helping our libraries in changing lives and contributing to our community with a positive impact.

WHEREAS, Friends of the Putnam County Library raise money that enables our library to move from good to great -- providing the resources for additional programming, much needed equipment, support for children’s summer reading, and special events throughout the year;

WHEREAS, the work of the Friends highlights on an on-going basis the fact that our library is the cornerstone of the community providing opportunities for all to engage in the joy of life-long learning and connect with the thoughts and ideas of others from ages past to the present;

WHEREAS, the Friends understand the critical importance of well-funded libraries and advocate to ensure that our library gets the resources it needs to provide a wide variety of services to all ages including access to print and electronic materials, along with expert assistance in research, readers’ advisory, and children’s services;

WHEREAS, the Friends’ gift of their time and commitment to the library sets an example for all in how volunteerism leads to positive civic engagement and the betterment of our community;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Randy Porter, The Putnam County Executive, hereby proclaims October 18-24, 2015, as Friends of Libraries week in Putnam County, Tennessee and urges everyone to join the Friends of the Library and thank them for all they do to make our library and community so much better.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the County of Putnam to be affixed at Cookeville on this the 15th day of October, 2015.

Randy Porter
COUNTY EXECUTIVE
County of Sevier

Proclamation

By The County Mayor

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
WEEK IN SEVIER COUNTY, OCTOBER 19-25, 2014

WHEREAS, Friends of the Sevier County Public Library System in Sevierville, Kodak, and Seymour raise money that enables our library to move from good to great -- providing resources for additional programming, much needed equipment, support for summer reading, and special events throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, the work of the Friends highlights on an on-going basis the fact that our library system is the cornerstone of the community, providing opportunities for all to engage in the joy of life-long learning, and connect with the thoughts and ideas of others from ages past to the present; and

WHEREAS, the Friends understand the critical importance of well-funded libraries and advocate to ensure that our library system gets the resources it needs to provide a wide variety of services to all ages including access to print and electronic materials, along with expert assistance in research, readers’ advisory, and children’s services; and

WHEREAS, the Friends’ gift of their time and commitment to the library system sets an example for all in how volunteerism leads to positive civic engagement and the betterment of our community.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, Larry Waters, Sevier County Mayor, along with the Sevier County Commission, proclaim October 19 - 25, 2014, as National Friends of Libraries week in Sevier County, Tennessee, and urge everyone to join the Friends of the Library, and thank them for all they do to make our library and community better.

Done this 20th day of October, 2014

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the County of Sevier to be affixed.

County Mayor

Date

Attest:
County Clerk

- 8 of 16 -
The **Sevier County** Public Library System celebrated National Friends of Libraries Week with an appreciation reception and visit to Sevier County Commission meeting. Representatives of the Friends of Sevier County Public Library System (King Family, Kodak Branch, & Seymour Branch) attended for a presentation of the Friends of Libraries Week Proclamation approved by the commission and signed by Mayor Larry Waters (*holding plaque*).
Guest Column

Support your local library

BY DWIGHT W. SHEPHERD
Secretary
Friends of Tennessee Libraries


The Sevier County Commission endorsed this proclamation and recognized the local Friends of the library on Oct. 20.

These are deserving tributes. Locally Friends of the Library do some really good things. However, they do not do a very good job of promoting themselves.

I’m finding that many people do not know what a Friends of the Library group is, that there is one in our area (Sevier County actually has four), or that the Friends want and need them to get involved with the group.

A Friends of the Library group is a nonprofit, charitable organization of volunteers who support community libraries. They provide funds for materials or services that limited government funding doesn’t allow. This can be additional books — including large print and books on CD, craft materials for children’s storytime, materials and prizes for summer reading programs, sponsoring programs on subjects such as technology, history, gardening, and much, much more.

They advocate for better funding for library services on all levels. They promote the many ways that our libraries serve the community besides just a place to go check out books; including the fact that you can now often download books without visiting the library building.

Sevier County is blessed to have four Friends of the Library groups. The Pigeon Forge Library has one of the groups. It is a small but very supportive group that works closely with the library director and the library advisory board to fund a variety of programs throughout the year, primarily children’s programs. To learn more about the Pigeon Forge Friends, call the library at 429-7490.

The Sevier County Public Library System has a separate Friends group for each of its branches: King Family in Sevierville, Kodak and Seymour.

The King Family Friends formed shortly after that building opened as the new main branch for the library system. They have been an active group ever since. They have been held out as a model all across Tennessee for how to start a Friends of the Library group. They currently have earned two grants from Friends of Tennessee Libraries to aid in advocacy and fundraising.

Their ongoing Lifelong Learning programs offer a wide variety of subjects that enhance the work of their library.

Friends of Kodak Library raised the money for the building that currently houses the Kodak Branch Library, then gave it to the county.

In 2011 they were recognized as Tennessee Friend of the Year by the Tennessee Library Association and Friends of Tennessee Libraries. They have had numerous activities written up in newsletters of both Friends of Tennessee Libraries and United For Libraries (the Division of the American Library Association for Friends, Trustees and Advocates) as examples good things that a Friends group can do.

Not bad for a group with fewer than 50 members. They are currently raising funds for a larger building.

The Friends of Seymour Library also raised funds to help build the current Seymour Branch Library. They have been very active in supporting and promoting what’s happening there.

They have launched innovative new programs, such as their “How We Live: Then and Now” and “Summer Sounds & Sweets” that promote both the library and the community at the same time. They have recently begun raising funds to expand the current building.

To do all of these things, the Friends groups need members to support them and help with their activities. Just having a library card or attending programs does not make you a Friend of the Library Member. Although the libraries and the Friends do appreciate you doing that.

Becoming a Friend usually means filling out an application (very short and simple) and paying dues (very reasonable, in most cases $5-$15 a year). After that, you determine your level of involvement. You may be comfortable with just paying your dues. You may want to just attend an occasional meeting. You may want to work on just one project or serve on a committee. You may have ideas for new projects to share. You may want to take an active leadership role. Any of these would be welcomed by the Friends.

Whatever level of involvement you choose, your library will benefit from it. So will you. The Sevier County Public Library System has more information and applications that can be printed out for each of its Friends groups on the library website, www.sevierlibrary.org. Friends of Tennessee Libraries would also welcome new members. Information and an online application can be found at our website, www.friendstnlibraries.org.

I’ve always said that libraries make a world of difference. Friends make a world of difference to their libraries. If you aren’t already a Friends Member, I strongly encourage you to join and help make a difference. If you are already a member, thank you for being a Friend.

Dwight Shepherd is secretary of Friends of Tennessee Libraries. He is current treasurer, past president and a founding member of Friends of Kodak Library. He resides in Kodak, and his family has lived in Sevier County since the 1790s.
Letter to the editor of the *Knoxville News Sentinel*:

Martha Moore Gill, Knoxville

**Week recognizes value of libraries**

Until Oct. 8, when it was announced that Svetlana Alexievich had won the 2015 Nobel Prize for Literature, I had never heard of her. But, much to my delight, the Knox County Public Library knew who she was and had two of her books in its catalog. What a resource.

One of the reasons that I am member of the Friends of the Knox County Public Library is that I appreciate what the library system offers me and the rest of our community. Those reasons include but are not limited to a long list of services: books on many different platforms to enjoy as well as to share through two different book discussions every month, films and other audiovisual materials, genealogical research, reference librarians who are always able to help, service to those who are homebound, story time for little ones and their parents, cultivation of early childhood literacy through Imagination Library, programs for teens, and resources for those of us who only dimly remember our teens.

Oct. 18-24 is Friends of Libraries Week across the nation, in Tennessee and in Knox County. Friends of Libraries volunteer in, advocate for, support and promote their libraries because we believe that public libraries are essential to democracy and life-long learning.
Linebaugh celebrates Friends!

MURFREESBORO -- Linebaugh Public Library System will celebrate its Friends of the Library groups Oct. 18-24 as part of the 10th annual celebration of National Friends of Libraries Week.

Friends of Linebaugh Library was established in 1981 and has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the library.

"The library has always played such an important role in my life and in my family's life," said Sandra Pineault, president of Friends of Linebaugh Library. "I truly enjoy being able to give something back -- and being an active member of this group is fun."

Currently more than 200 community members contribute annually to the nonprofit library group. Nearly 20 of these contributors actively volunteer time to assist the group with fundraising efforts that include the monthly used book sale held each month.

Other officers of the organization are Patricia Freeman, vice president; Kris Delene, secretary; Linda Gill, treasurer; and board members include Joyce Cunningham, Eva Graalman, Shelly Graham, Jon Jacques, Elizabeth Kobeck, Lisa McCann, Carlton Miller, Sally Schneider, Antionette van Zelm and Linda Vile.

"Our library would be much poorer without the Friends," said Carol Ghattas, Linebaugh Branch Librarian. "The funds they raise definitely put the icing on the cake. I think most patrons would be surprised to learn how many of the services and programs they enjoy are supported by the Friends."

Visit linebaugh.org to see how you can sign up to be a part of Friends of Linebaugh. Student memberships are $10 and individual memberships start at $20 per year.

For more information, call 615-893-4131 or visit linebaugh.org.

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ROCKY TOP NEWS

SPONSORED BY THE ROCKY TOP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

OCTOBER 2015

FREE

Friends of Rocky Top Public Library News

October is Become a Friend of the Library month! And now while supplies last you can join or renew your friend’s membership for the Friends of Rocky Top Public Library for $25.00 and receive a free Rocky Top Public Library book bag or t-shirt of your choice! Already a Friend? October is also Friend Membership Renewal Month. Stop by the Rocky Top Public Library to renew your membership and get another year of extra perks and opportunities at your local Library!

Friends of Libraries Week

October 18-24, 2015 has been declared Friends of Libraries Week to recognize and celebrate the work of volunteer Friends in local community libraries throughout Tennessee. Friends of Libraries Week is a national celebration, sponsored by United for Libraries, an Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends, and Foundations and a division of the American Library Association. The Friends of Tennessee Libraries (FOTL) is pleased to announce and thank Governor Haslam for his gracious Proclamation of Friends of Libraries Week once again this year in October. The Rocky Top Public Library will serve lunch at the library to FOL members on Thursday, October 22nd at 1:00pm. Please telephone the library if you plan on attending.
Friends help make local libraries go

Editor,

Local Friends of the Libraries groups are joining similar organizations across the state and country in observing National Friends of Libraries Week Oct. 18 through 24. I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of the local Friends of Libraries groups to help Sevier County libraries better serve the public.

The three groups that come together as Friends of Sevier County Library System are King Family, Seymour and Kodak Friends. They jointly organize used book sales and calendar sales, and use the proceeds to provide books and support programs at their own libraries, including the Summer Reading Program for children and teens.

Our own group, Friends of Seymour Library, also provides interesting historical talks throughout the year as well as outdoor summer music programs. We are saving the proceeds of our activities to support the proposed expansion of our small, crowded library.

Friends of Kodak Library is also raising funds for a capital project — a new, larger building. The group co-sponsors Kodak Heritage Day. In addition to buying books, CDs and DVDs for the library's collection, it supports and enriches a variety of library programs. This year marked FOKL's 20th anniversary; it is the oldest of the three groups.

Friends of King Family Library has more than 110 members and is by far the largest group. It's now in its fifth year of operation. It sponsors the Lifelong Learning program, which offers monthly educational opportunities on a wide variety of topics free of charge to Sevier County residents. A Friends gift this year purchased a pergola near the community garden behind the library.

I would encourage all Sevier County residents to make good use of the many resources our libraries offer and which are, by and large, free. If you value the knowledge and cultural enrichment that our libraries offer, you can support them by joining a local Friends group.

Sincerely,

Lucy Henighan
President
Friends of Seymour Library

Friends of Smyrna Library added 28 new photos — with Theresa Pickett.

Pictures from FOSL's Annual General Meeting during National Friends of the Library week. Thanks to Kedric Rutz for the pictures he contributed to this posting! Entertainment was provided by students from the Stewart Creek High School Band.
Friends of the White County Public Library

Friends of the Library make programs possible

Oct. 19-25 set aside as special recognition week for volunteers

Rada Gour
Staff Writer
rada@pencil.com

For National Friends of Libraries Week, the White County Public Library is thankful for the work the Friends of the White County Public Library have done to make so many events, and opportunites possible.

The Friends of the White County Library has flourished since its beginnings in 1988; the group now consists of approximately 300 members dedicated to supporting the library.

Members of the Friends of the White County Public Library meet to brainstorm ideas for improvement. They also offer a helping hand for any needs the library may have. The group runs the library’s Book Sale, which brings in

To members pull together to generate funding for the
See FRIENDS on 1A

FRIENDS: Dedicated volunteers

Continued from page 1A

Last year the library’s many community programs. The group helps to make community favorites like the Summer Reading Program, Spooky Saturday, Reading in Schools, and puppet shows possible.

Ted Wilkins, one of the library’s many friends, has been a member for over five years. Wilkins believes that the library is a vital part of White County

Friends of the Williamson County Public Library with
Debbie Sanders Eads
October 23 at 11:08am · 

This is National Friends of TN Libraries Week! In honor of that, we wanted to brag about our Friends group! Every year, they do fundraisers through book sales, bake sales, food sales, bocce tournaments and more in order to provide the needed funding that supplements our libraries. Without our Friends group we would not have the funds to hold children’s, teen’s or adult programming! They also purchase whatever furniture and supplies we need to keep the buildings looking fresh and inviting for you! So, if you see a Friend this week, please give them a big smile and a thank you!

Thank You

In honor of National Friends of the Library Week, we want to take a moment to thank our wonderful advocacy group, The Friends of the Washington County Public Library, for their continued service and dedication to improving the Washington County Public LIbrary System! We would not be nearly as successful without your support!
SAMPLE PROCLAMATION - PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Whereas, Friends of the (insert name) Library raise money that enables our library to move from good to great -- providing the resources for additional programming, much needed equipment, support for children’s summer reading, and special events throughout the year;

Whereas, the work of the Friends highlights on an on-going basis the fact that our library is the cornerstone of the community providing opportunities for all to engage in the joy of life-long learning and connect with the thoughts and ideas of others from ages past to the present;

Whereas, the Friends understand the critical importance of well funded libraries and advocate to ensure that our library gets the resources it needs to provide a wide variety of services to all ages including access to print and electronic materials, along with expert assistance in research, readers’ advisory, and children’s services;

Whereas, the Friends’ gift of their time and commitment to the library sets an example for all in how volunteerism leads to positive civic engagement and the betterment of our community;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that (fill in name and title of official) proclaims October 16-22, 2016, as Friends of Libraries week in (city, country, state) and urges everyone to join the Friends of the Library and thank them for all they do to make our library and community so much better.

SAMPLE LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

October 16-22, 2016, is the 11th annual celebration of National Friends of Libraries Week, making it a good time to publicly thank the Friends of the (name) Library who contribute so much of their time and expertise to significantly enhance our services. Our Friends group began in 1986 and over the course of the past 20 years, they have donated over $1,000,000 to cover the costs of children’s programming, special collections, and equipment. In fact, the Friends ushered our library into the digital era by funding our very first computer lab.

I know that the (name) Library is a source of pride for our community. Our Friends group is a source of pride as well. I hope this week everyone will call or visit the library to find out how they can join and support this outstanding group.

Sincerely,

(name)
Library Director
SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

(City, State) Date -- The (fill in the name) Library will be spending the week of October 16-22, 2016, celebrating its Friends of the Library group as part of the 11th annual celebration of National Friends of Libraries Week. The Friends of the (name) Library were established in 1986 and have raised over $1,000,000 for the library to date. Currently over 500 community members contribute annually to the Friends, and nearly 35 of these contributors actively volunteer their time to assist the group with fundraising efforts that include the annual used book sale held every spring.

[Quote from local library Friends president, such as] “The library has always played such an important role in my life and in my family’s life,” said Friends president Margaret Smith. “I truly enjoy being able to give something back – and being an active member of this group is fun!” Other officers of the organization are (add names and office).

Celebration activities include special children’s programs through the week based on the theme of friendship. All are invited to a night of music and chocolate on [day of week, date] at [time] at [location]. “Love letters” to Friends by the library staff will be posted throughout the library for all to view.

[Quote from local library director, such as] “Our library would be much poorer without the Friends,” said library director Bill Jones. “The funds they raise definitely put the icing on the cake. I think most patrons would be surprised to learn how many of the services and programs they enjoy are supported by the Friends.” Please visit contact the library at (phone number) to learn more about the week’s activities, and to find out how to become a member of the Friends.

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Compiled by
Donald B. Reynolds, Jr.
for the
FRIENDS OF TENNESSEE LIBRARIES
4109 Forest Glen Drive  Knoxville, Tennessee 37919
Website: www.friendstnlibraries.org  Facebook Page: http://tinyurl.com/FOTLFacebook
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The electronic version of this booklet can be found at:
http://www.friendstnlibraries.org