

**2026 SUNCOAST SUMMER READING CHALLENGE  
LETTER OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
THE PATTERSON FOUNDATION AND  
CITY OF NORTH PORT**

**INTRODUCTION**

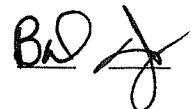
- A. **WHEREAS**, the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (SCGLR) is a community-wide effort in Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota Counties fostering broad community participation to achieve shared aspirations for the success of families and children;
- B. **WHEREAS**, the statistics are troubling: 69 percent of children nationwide are not proficient readers by the end of third grade;
- C. **WHEREAS**, the data clearly shows that students from lower-SES backgrounds are significantly more likely to struggle with reading proficiency compared to their higher-SES peers;
- D. **WHEREAS**, fifty-three percent of all third graders in Charlotte, 62% of all third graders in DeSoto, 49% of all third graders in Manatee and 32% of all third graders in Sarasota Counties are unable to read proficiently by the end of third grade;
- E. **WHEREAS**, the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading was launched to reverse this potentially catastrophic trend by supporting common-sense solutions at the federal, state, and local levels;
- F. **WHEREAS**, summer 2026 can be a time of great inequity for young people. Many young people and their families lose access to critical support that keeps them safe, healthy, and engaged in learning;
- G. **WHEREAS**, research shows that asset-limited children can lose two months or more of reading skills over the summer, and children who do that consistently can wind up two years behind their classmates by the end of sixth grade;
- H. **WHEREAS**, research shows that reading six books at the appropriate reading level during the summer may keep a struggling reader from regressing; and,
- I. **WHEREAS**, the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading’s 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 Suncoast Summer Reading Challenge and THIS BOOK IS COOL! initiative helped to stem learning loss.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the mutual promises, covenants and consideration contained herein and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

- I. Program Name: 2026 Suncoast Summer Reading Challenge ("2026 SSRC")

(Every page must be initialed by all parties signing the document)

Initials \_\_\_\_\_



II. Parties to this Letter of Agreement:

The Patterson Foundation ("TPF"):  
 2 N. Tamiami Trail, Suite 206  
 Sarasota, FL 34236  
 (941) 952-1413  
 Beth Duda  
[bduda@thepattersonfoundation.org](mailto:bduda@thepattersonfoundation.org)

City of North Port  
 4970 City Hall Blvd  
 North Port, FL 34286  
 (941) 429-7129  
 Sandy Pfundheller  
[spfundheller@northportfl.gov](mailto:spfundheller@northportfl.gov)

**Please complete this chart for each Summer Location.** (If you will be conducting the Suncoast Summer Reading Challenge in more than one location, please ensure there is a chart for each location)

Summer Camp Location Name	GMAC SUMMER CAMP
Summer Program Location	1602 KRAMER WAY, NORTH PORT, FL 34286
Dates of Summer Programming	JUN 01 - AUG 07, 2026   CLOSED FOR JUNETEENTH, JULY 3
Days and Hours of Operation	MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY   8:30AM - 4:30PM
Number of Weeks in Session	10 WEEKS
Number of Projected Students Per Week (Must have a minimum of 25 students per week fully participating in order to qualify for funding.)	180
Address (Must match Giving Partner Address or Legal Business Address) Street, City, Zip Code	4970 CITY HALL BLVD, NORTH PORT FL 34286
Address for Payments Street, City, Zip Code	
Point of Contact Name	CURTIS CHAMPION
Point of Contact Email	CCHAMPION@NORTHPORTFL.GOV
Point of Contact Phone Number	(941) 240-8122
Summer Program Director Name	SANDY PFUNDHELLER
Summer Program Director Email Address	SPFUNDHELLER@NORTHPORTFL.GOV
Summer Program Director Phone Number	(941) 429-7129

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### **Suncoast Summer Reading Challenge**

This Letter of Agreement (LOA) is made and entered into by and between The Patterson Foundation and City of North Port ("Provider") to establish the terms of participation in the Suncoast Summer Reading Challenge.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this LOA is to outline the responsibilities and commitments of participating summer programs in the Suncoast Summer Reading Challenge, ensuring an enriching and academically supportive summer experience for children.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

#### **Nonprofit Summer Providers**

To be eligible for support from the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading and The Patterson Foundation, the Provider must:

- Offer a summer program that combines enrichment activities and academic support.
- Ensure that Certified Teachers provide academic instruction or guidance. This can be fulfilled in conjunction with the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading if a Certified Teacher is not available to the Summer Provider.
- Operate a program that meets at least 5 hours per day, 4 days per week (except for holiday weeks).
- Run a summer program that lasts a minimum of 6 weeks.
- Serve at least 25 children in grades PreK – 5th grade.
- Include children eligible for free and reduced-price breakfasts and lunches.

#### **Business Partner Summer Providers**

To be eligible for support, Business Partner Summer Providers must:

- Offer a summer program that combines enrichment activities and academic support.
- Ensure that Certified Teachers provide academic instruction or guidance.
- Operate a program that meets at least twice per week (except for holiday weeks).
- Run a summer program that lasts a minimum of 4 weeks.
- Serve at least 25 children in grades PreK – 5th grade.
- Include children eligible for free and reduced-price breakfasts and lunches.


### **Full Participation Requirements**

Each participating summer program agrees to:

- Work with a Community Outreach Engager provided by The Patterson Foundation.
- Designate a Suncoast Summer Reading Challenge Team Leader/Contact Person who will be responsible for communicating all summer learning plans and relevant information to The Patterson Foundation.
- Ensure that all staff interacting with participating children view the Suncoast Summer Reading Challenge training video.

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- Receive a training video link from The Patterson Foundation's Community Outreach Engager and schedule a virtual Q&A session if needed.
- Encourage volunteer participation in the training to strengthen program delivery.

### Challenge Execution and Reporting

- Programs will distribute incentives, including:
  - Silicone bracelets for each of the first 6 books read.
  - A brag tag and chain upon reading 6 books.
  - Additional brag tags for every 5 books read beyond the initial 6.
- Awarding of bracelets and brag tags will occur at least once per week at each program site.

### Engagement in Learning Activities

- Each summer program is encouraged to prioritize parent and family engagement throughout the summer. Keep parents and family members informed about daily activities and special events. When possible, invite their participation. Share their child's successes with them and find opportunities to praise positive behaviors.
- The Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading will support camp-sponsored family engagement events centered around reading. The Patterson Foundation will consider contributing to the cost of refreshments for up to 3 family engagement events during the course of the summer camp. In order to secure this support, Summer providers must share their plans with their Community Outreach Engager at least 3 weeks prior to the planned event.

Each participating summer program commits to:

- Planning and implementing at least two summer learning activities per week to promote a love of reading and learning.
- Sharing a list of completed activities during learning and sharing sessions with their designated Community Outreach Engager.

### Payments

If all conditions are met, including this signed Letter of Agreement, payments from The Patterson Foundation to the Summer Location will be as follows:

- 60% on or around May 26, 2026.
- 40% on or around August 11, 2026.

### Term and Termination

This LOA shall be effective upon signature and remain in effect for the duration of the summer program. Either party may terminate this agreement with written notice if commitments are not being met.

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**Execution and Effective Date**

This LOA will be executed and effective on the date of the final signature below.

2026 Suncoast Summer Reading Challenge Support Dollars for Nonprofit Summer Providers			
Supports	On-site Programs with at least 25 participating students*	On-site Programs with more than 40 and less than 60 participating students	On-site Programs with 60 or more participating students
\$250 per week for 6 weeks	✓		
\$500 per week for 6 weeks		✓	
\$750 per week for 6 weeks			✓

2026 Suncoast Summer Reading Challenge Support Dollars for Business Partner Summer Providers			
Supports	On-site Programs with at least 25 participating students*	On-site Programs with more than 40 and less than 60 participating students	On-site Programs with 60 or more participating students
\$250 per week for 4 weeks	✓		
\$500 per week for 4 weeks		✓	✓

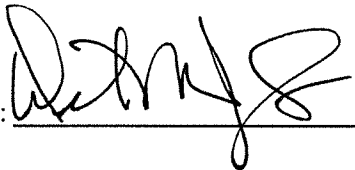
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Initials \_\_\_\_\_ BD [Signature]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have been duly authorized to bind their respective parties to this Agreement and have caused this Agreement to be executed as of the date noted above written.

**THE PATTERSON FOUNDATION**

**CITY OF NORTH PORT PARKS & RECREATION**

Signature: 

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Debra M. Jacobs

Name: A. Jerome Fletcher II, ICMA-CM, MPA  
Title: City Manager

Title: President and CEO

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 4-14-26

ATTEST

\_\_\_\_\_  
HEATHER FAUST, MMC  
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CORRECTNESS

\_\_\_\_\_  
MICHAEL FUINO, B.C.S  
CITY ATTORNEY

(Every page must be initialed by all parties signing the document)

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**THE PATTERSON FOUNDATION**

**CITY OF NORTH PORT - PARKS & RECREATION**

**DEPARTMENT**

Signature: Beth Duda  
Name: Beth Duda  
Title: Director, SCGLR

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: Sandy Pfundheller  
Title: Director

Date: 4/13/2026

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(Every page must be initialed by all parties signing the document)

Initials BD [Signature]

### Exhibit A: Partner Media/Public Relations/Social Media Policy

The Patterson Foundation values working collaboratively with partners and vendors for ultimate impact. Part of being an active and engaged vendor means a mutual coordination of strategy, messaging and timing of communications efforts for a streamlined and consistent approach. To this end, we've created the following process to align efforts.

Partners should ensure their internal strategy aligns with this media procedure below, so all internal stakeholders know where to direct media inquiries:

#### Media Inquiries and Interviews

Direct all media inquiries and questions **related to The Patterson Foundation** to: Beth Duda: 941-952-1413 or [bduda@thepattersonfoundation.org](mailto:bduda@thepattersonfoundation.org)

#### Media Releases

1. All press releases originating from The Patterson Foundation will be written and distributed by The Patterson Foundation communications partner, MagnifyGood .
2. Use of The Patterson Foundation name and/or quotes from employees/initiative managers are not permitted without prior written approval from The Patterson Foundation. An email from TPF constitutes sufficient written approval.
3. To ensure the integrity of The Patterson Foundation and its media policy and strategy, please submit a draft of your press release and your distribution list for review prior to desired release date. Please email to [bjacobs@magnifygood.com](mailto:bjacobs@magnifygood.com).

#### Other Communications & Social Media

Prior to engaging in any other publicity or communications, including social media activity (that includes without limitation texting, posting, blogging, Instagram, TikTok, X, Bluesky, Facebook, and LinkedIn) referencing your work with The Patterson Foundation or mentioning The Patterson Foundation, please coordinate with TPF as noted above for approval.

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