ADECA now accepting Census grant applications

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs is administering a one-time 2020 Census Grant Program to support the accurate count of the Alabama Counts! 2020 Census campaign.

ADECA will award grants to eligible applicants to conduct census outreach activities throughout Alabama to accomplish the following goals:

• Ensure a fair, accurate and inclusive census count for Alabama.
• Increase the self-response rates of hard-to-count communities and populations in Alabama.

The following types of organizations are eligible to apply:

• Organization with tax exempt 501(c)(3) status, and/or tribes
• Community group fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) organization
• Organization or coalition working in the identified hard-to-count communities
• Local governmental entity or public agency working regionally or working with organizations and coalitions in the identified hard-to-count communities and geographies

To be considered for funding, you must return a completed application and all required supporting documentation to icount@census.alabama.gov by 5 p.m. Central Time on Oct. 11, 2019. Any applications received after that date and time will not be considered for funding.

Grant awards will be announced in mid-November 2019. Projects funded by the program may commence Jan. 1, 2020 and run through June 2020.

For more information, or to download a 2020 Census grant application, visit census.alabama.gov/grants/.

TWO RESOURCES, ONE GOAL: HELPING ALABAMA SUCCEED

LearningExpress Library & HomeworkAlabama

- Online tutoring for grades K-12
- College placement resources
- Help for all ages and skill levels
- Certification testing & GED preparation
- Career resources

Find both on our Resources & Research Links Page
Stevenson Public Library teen group takes pride in community

Community pride is the focus each summer for Stevenson Public Library's teen group.

Stevenson Public Library Director Monica Davis wants her teens to enjoy reading. Taking it one step further, Davis actively encourages them to apply their reading skills to learn more about their community and also make a positive impact on their surroundings.

In previous summers, Stevenson PL's teen group has done things like helping build new playground equipment and also cleaning veterans' graves. This year, the group chose to make improvements to a small park off of Main Street by assembling benches, planting flowers, and painting.

“They've transformed this little park into the perfect place to sit and enjoy a book, take pictures, or have a family gathering,” said Davis. “These kids have worked so hard. I love hearing my teens say, ‘I helped make that!' when others talk about how great the little park looks.”

Stevenson PL teens also prepared and served a meal to public employees, volunteered at a day care facility, toured a college, observed city court, spent a day at the lake, and had fun at a nearby water park.

Davis said that in order to participate in the library’s teen group, you must also volunteer with the youth program. Davis also reserves a handful of spots to invite pre-teens who shine with the youth program to also participate in the teen group.

“I like to have a diverse group so they can build relationships and ‘forever friendships,’” she said.

Have story ideas or suggestions for upcoming issues?
Contact Ryan Godfrey at rgodfrey@apls.state.al.us or 334-213-3909.
Birmingham Zoo, Sloss Furnace visit Bessemer Public Library

The Bessemer Public Library recently welcomed the Birmingham Zoo to celebrate Alabama’s Bicentennial with them. The zoo provided attendees with fascinating details on animals that can be found within the state. The library had more than 100 kids to attend the program for a closer look at the animals that were on hand.

Ty Malugani from Birmingham’s Sloss Furnace also visited the library to discuss all things great about Alabama’s history. Malugani answered questions on Alabama’s coal mining history, and he even shared a local ghost story with the library’s STEM group.

Back-to-school fun in Fairhope

Fairhope Public Library welcomes everyone back to school. For a creations station project, the library recently asked children to draw and cut out favorite characters who they would rather see driving their school bus.
Brundidge teens take a trip to Hogwart’s for Harry Potter night

Tupper Lightfoot Memorial Library staff hosted a Harry Potter party for teens on Sept. 9. Attendees competed against each other in a game of Harry Potter Trivia, and there were also Butter Beer and chocolate frog tastings for everyone.

Miss Camellia 2020 visits Greenville-Butler County PL

Kailee Montes, Miss Camellia 2020, recently visited the Greenville-Butler County Public Library. She has a wonderful children’s reading initiative that is inspired by her personal battle with dyslexia.

Montes will be featured at the next Summer Reading Kickoff as well as an upcoming APLS administrator’s meeting. She wants to get her message out to as many public libraries as possible before competing in Miss Alabama next June.
White Hall has summer of fun

The White Hall Public Library’s summer program in June and July emphasized the universe of stories Alabama has waiting to be discovered.

Summer started with an open discussion of what a story entails. Library staff discussed stories from within their local communities, in Lowndes County, and throughout the state. The library had a display of community stories and books on Alabama’s Bicentennial for the students to read and check out.

White Hall PL also had a program for seniors to make string art of the state.

More than 50 students from kindergarten through grade 9 participated in White Hall’s summer reading program.

The library also worked closely with teachers who were tutored reading, math, and science through the White Hall Summer Enrichment Program, which is sponsored by the Town of White Hall. The library supplied information and resource materials for the enrichment program.