

Library Lines by Ruth Gilbert, Youth Services Librarian

Memorial Day is this weekend, which means summer is not far off. The school year is winding down and your family may be looking for ways to get out of town for some summer fun. The Kirkland Town Library is here to help with your summer plans!

If you're looking to take some easy day trips, join the Mid York Library Road Trip. Starting June 1, kids, adults, and families are invited to take a road trip around Oneida, Herkimer, and Madison counties to visit the 45 libraries in the Mid York System. You'll have until August 31 to complete your trip, and you can win prizes as you go. You'll get a map of all the libraries and a stamp for every library you visit. If you make it to all the libraries, you'll win a VIP gold library card. You'll also get to meet lots of friendly library staff, see some beautiful buildings, and explore other towns. Many libraries will have a special activity to do when you visit, and then you can take a stroll through town and maybe even find a new favorite lunch spot. Let your road trip take you to places you've never visited! Find out more at mylibraryroadtrip.org.

The library has resources to help make any road trip more fun. We've created a Road Trip Kit for families that includes games to play in the car. You can also borrow passes to parks like Fort Rickey, the Wild Center, and New York State parks, which make it really easy to set out and explore.

Grab a Storytime-to-Go bag or Play With Me Kit to bring with you on your travels. Play With Me Kits are full of developmentally-appropriate toys designed for ages 0-12, 12-24, 24-36, and 36-48 months. They're an easy, contained way to bring toys and books along for the ride.

If you're not hitting the road this summer, let a book take you on an adventure instead! Here are some suggestions to inspire a trip, or to let you wander with the help of your imagination.

"The Atlas Obscura Explorer's Guide for the World's Most Adventurous Kid" by Dylan Thuras and Rosemary Mosco is an oversized book full of 47 countries and 100 extraordinary places to visit. Find inspiration for a bucket list or just learn about these amazing places without ever leaving the couch!

"The Hike" by Alison Farrell is a picture book about a more everyday adventure: three friends on a walk in the woods. This book's fun is in the details. All the animals and plants are labeled in the charming illustrations of the girls hiking through the forest. They watch, listen, draw in sketchbooks, and barely make it to the top of a ridge where they're rewarded with a spectacular view and a sense of accomplishment. You may be inspired to take a hike in the nearby Adirondack mountains.

"Grandma Gatewood Hikes the Appalachian Trail" by Jennifer Thermes is a picture book that tells the extraordinary story of Emma Gatewood, who at 67 became the first woman to hike the entire Appalachian Trail alone. She did so wearing canvas sneakers and a pack that weighed less than 20 pounds. She also enjoyed it so much that she did it two more times, in addition to hiking the Long Trail and Oregon Trail as well.

Whether you hit the road, take a hike in some nearby woods, or travel in your imagination, stop by your local library to help get you started!