

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Georgia Public Library Service partners with a number of state and private organizations to provide an additional layer of support and awareness for the state's public libraries. During the past decade, our partnership programs have educated and entertained thousands of Georgia citizens while saving more than \$13 million in direct expenditures and providing hundreds of hours of free programming for public libraries.

GPLS's partnership with Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites, a division of the Department of Natural Resources, began in June 2008. With the introduction of the ParkPass program, library users are able to check out passes good for free parking and admissions. ParkPass circulations have grown by double-digit percentages in each year, with almost 22,000 loans recorded in 2016 and more than 100,000 since inception. Building on this relationship with DNR, public libraries began loaning family passes for the Go Fish Education Center in Perry in 2012. The pass and a valid library card provide patrons with free admission for up to four family members.

The Zoo Atlanta Family Pass program began in February 2011. It attracted 30,637 DVD circulations in 2016, enabling more than 84,000 Georgians to visit the zoo free of charge. The program annually saves families hundreds of thousands of dollars and provides many children with opportunities to visit the zoo and take part in its many educational programs and special events.

In partnership with the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority, Georgia's libraries have been able to offer the Kill-a-Watt Loan Program for the past seven years. So far, this has saved residents more than \$70,000 over the purchase price of the meters and additional thousands off annual electric bills.

GPLS's longest-running partnership is the Check-It-Out Reading Challenge, co-sponsored by GPLS and the Atlanta

Hawks. These supplemental summer reading programs began in June 2005. Nearly 100,000 tickets have been awarded to young readers who have participated.

In 2013, Georgia's public libraries began a partnership with The Center for Puppetry Arts in Atlanta. The "Passport to Puppetry" program includes free museum admissions — representing a potential savings of up to \$32 per family — as well as a number of creative, inspiring performances and workshops at public libraries. GPLS and the Atlanta Braves also joined together in 2013 to begin the "Home Run Readers" program, which has allowed thousands of children to earn game tickets each of the past four summers.

In 2016, GPLS partnered with seven Georgia units of the U.S. National Park Service and began a third supplemental summer reading program, partnering with the Georgia National Fair and the GFB Foundation for Agriculture. As the year drew to a close, Atlanta's Michael C. Carlos Museum joined with GPLS to introduce a multi-faceted program featuring library loans of museum passes, docent-led programming

at libraries and an eight-panel educational exhibit that will tour libraries throughout 2017 and into 2018.

GPLS additionally partners with other community organizations, such as the Georgia Council for the Arts and the Georgia Center for the Book, that provide free programming for libraries and with the Arts For All Gallery, a partnership aimed specifically to benefit the Georgia Libraries for Accessible Statewide Services, exhibiting the works of artists with visual and physical impairments.

