

May 2025 eNewsletter | Volume 12 Issue 5

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College Depot at Phoenix Public Library Launches Improved GRIT Program

College Depot at Phoenix Public Library was founded in 2009 to address a critical need: equitable access to higher education planning for all Phoenix residents. With strong leadership and collaboration between city leadership and community organizations, College Depot was created as a free, full-service college access center located inside Burton Barr Central Library.

Since its doors opened, College Depot has helped more than 233,000 Phoenicians navigate every step of the college and career planning journey—from FAFSA completion to GED support to college reengagement—providing one-on-one guidance, workshops, and wraparound services that continue to change lives. Born from a true community effort, College Depot remains deeply embedded in Phoenix's commitment to educational equity and economic opportunity.

Carrying this hands-on and personalized service tradition forward, in 2020 College Depot launched GRIT (Graduating Ready, Independent, and Tenacious). GRIT provides high school seniors with a dream of being college bound with a more connected and direct support system.

"GRIT isn't just about pushing through, but growing through every challenge I've faced with mentors, counselors and family, making a step toward the strongest version of myself." ~ GRIT '25 graduate, Ciara





Inspired by demand, College Depot has expanded the GRIT program to offer hands on and personalized GRIT services on Wednesdays and Saturdays for high school seniors beginning in August.

Workshop Wednesdays will explore timely college application and senior year milestones such as College Admissions (both in-state and out-of-state), Writing Winning Scholarship and Admissions Essays, Applying for Financial Aid and Scholarships, Evaluating Housing, and more.

Senior Saturdays will offer more in-depth presentations, guest speakers, and personalized guidance and opportunities for family members to participate, all geared around senior year milestones and deadlines.

College Depot's GRIT program has scripted out a senior year timeline tied to the milestones necessary to plan, apply for and launch into being college bound. Enroll your high school senior in a GRIT Orientation session today to have access to a supportive network with answers at every step of the way and help in unlocking as much college funding as possible. College Depot advice and guidance is available in both English and Spanish.

GRIT Orientation is offered beginning in July, registration now open. [GRIT Orientation](#)



Sign Up for Summer Reading



Registration for Summer Reading is now open! Phoenix Public Library's annual Summer Reading Program is almost here—and this year's theme is Color Our World! From June 1 through August 1, 2025, readers of all ages are invited to join the fun, earn prizes, and celebrate literacy in their community.

As the summer heats up, make visiting Phoenix Public Library and Summer Reading part of your plans for the whole family, so much fun awaits! Unlock digital badges as you read, complete online challenges and earn extra points, attend fun and themed events at your local library location, and explore engaging and unique experiences throughout the community...all for free!

Visit maricopacountyreads.org, sign up and be ready to play the Summer Reading game June 1 through August 1.

Sunday FUN Day



It's heating up in Phoenix, so spend a cool Sunday afternoon at the library! Visit Burton Barr Central Library on Sunday, May 18 from 2 – 4 p.m. and enjoy fun and free activities planned for all ages. Enjoy a Bollywood-style interactive dance performance at 2 pm. Plus, button-making, glitter tattoos and more in the MACH1 makerspace. Join a building-wide Scavenger Hunt for a fun prize. Take a family photo in the "Color Our World " photo booth. And don't forget to sign up for Summer Reading! For Sunday FUN Day ONLY, we are giving away free "Just Read" car shades!

Sunday FUN Day! Sunday, May 18, 2-4 p.m.

Best Way to Get Ready for Kindergarten

Have a little one in the family getting ready to start in Kindergarten in the fall of 2025? Register today and get ready for school with Kindergarten Bootcamp. Providing a foundation of learning social, academic and classroom skills; soon-to-be-kindergartners, paired with their grown-up get ready for Kindergarten in this 7-week series. Includes lots of tools and resources needed for school success to use in the home to be a child's first and best teacher.

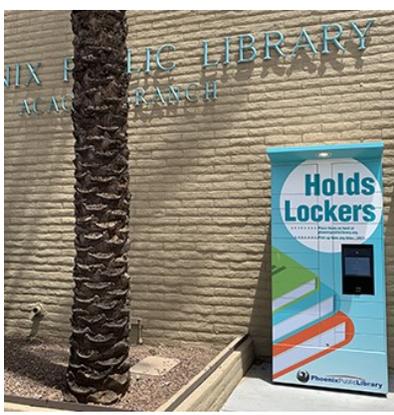


Beginning late May, Phoenix Public Library is offering this premier program throughout the summer, helping families get their soon-to-be-Kindergartner prepared to have the best school experience. Visit [Kindergarten Bootcamp](http://KindergartenBootcamp.phoenixpubliclibrary.org) on phoenixpubliclibrary.org to find a series at a library location near you.

Phoenix Public Library Opens Outdoor Holds Lockers

Phoenix Public Library is making borrowing even easier! Effective **Monday, May 12**, Outdoor Holds Lockers will be available throughout Phoenix Public Library's system (select locations offering them now).

By selecting the "Outdoor Locker" option when placing your hold, you can pick up your requested library items at your convenience anytime, day or night with just your library card and password. Learn more at [Phoenix Public Library Holds Lockers](http://PhoenixPublicLibraryHoldsLockers.org).



May Programs

[May the Fourth Be With You](#)

Join us for some intergalactic fun! Participate in an out-of-this-world Family Storytime followed by family fun activities. Complete activities to become a space knight, create your own lightsaber, and try out other STEAM activities, while supplies last.

Saturday, May 3, 2 - 3:30 p.m. - [May the 4th Literacy Event](#) - [Cesar Chavez Library](#)

Saturday, May 3, 3 - 4:30 p.m. - [May the 4th Family Fun](#) - [Desert Sage Library](#)

[MACH2 - Bilingual Robotics Expo](#)

Join local [FIRST Robotics](#) teams from across the Valley at MACH2 Makerspace and throughout Cholla Library for a Bilingual FIRST Robotics Expo, brought to you by Cobra Robotics. View real competition robots created by kids and teens, play with robots, and create something cool with LEGOs!

Saturday, May 3, 1- 4 p.m. - [Bilingual Robotics Expo](#) - [Cholla Library](#)

Keeping Up with City of Phoenix

Summer Safety and Heat Relief Resources Available



The City of Phoenix is offering heat relief by extending hours at three library locations and offering a 24-hour respite center. Now through September 30, Phoenix will operate a 24-hour respite center at 20 W. Jackson St.

Additionally, [Cholla](#), [Harmon](#), and [Yucca](#) libraries will stay open offering cooling center and full library services Mondays through Saturdays until 10 p.m. On Sundays, these three locations will open as cooling centers from noon to 10 p.m.

To learn more, stay updated, and protect you and your loved ones from the heat, follow #PHXSummer on social media and visit phoenix.gov/summer

Mental Health Awareness Month

The City of Phoenix is proud to recognize May 2025 as Mental Health Awareness Month.



This is the first year the City is commemorating "Mental Health Matters," a campaign to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health issues and provide resources to support mental health and wellness. Mental and physical health are equally important; it's estimated more than one in five U.S. adults live with a mental illness. Learn more at phoenix.gov/mentalhealthmatters.

Nominations Now Open!



The Phoenix Mayor's Commission on Disability Issues has opened nomination submissions for their annual Disability Awareness Recognition Event!

Nominate an individual, group or business for their dedication and service to people with disabilities. Register and learn more at [Phoenix Mayor's Commission on Disability Issues](#).

The Phoenix Human Relations Commission and Phoenix Fast-Track Cities invite you to attend the "Ending the HIV Epidemic in Phoenix" webinar! Update your knowledge on HIV basics, including prevention, testing and treatment. Hear from Maricopa County Public Health and learn about local efforts.

- Thursday, June 26, 2025
- Noon - 1p.m.

Register today at: [Ending the HIV Epidemic in Phoenix](#)

Webinar: Ending the HIV Epidemic in Phoenix



Participate in the Climate Action Survey



Be a part of the development of the plans by participating in the climate action planning survey. Your participation in this survey will help shape future efforts, inform the allocation of resources and improve the quality of life of all Phoenicians. Please complete the survey by May 30th and share the survey with friends and neighbors. Visit [Phoenix 2025 Climate Action Plan](#) to complete the survey and learn more.

Phoenix Police Seeks Input with Youth Interaction Survey

The City of Phoenix is seeking input from youth and parents throughout the community to guide the development of a Youth Interaction Policy for the Police Department.



Surveys are available in both English and Spanish, and responses will remain anonymous and confidential – they will not be used for any purpose beyond improving relationships with local law enforcement.

Take the survey in [English](#) or [Spanish](#). To learn more, visit [Phoenix Police Seeks Input](#)



Mark Your Calendars for Library Closures

• **Monday, May 26:** All Phoenix Public Library locations will be closed in observance of Memorial Day.

Book drops at all [Phoenix Public Library locations](#) and our [eLibrary](#) remain available.



Phoenix Public Library is a system of 16 branch libraries, Burton Barr Central Library and a Bookmobile.

602-262-4636

www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org