

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. Over 13 years, our partnership programs have educated and entertained thousands of Georgians while saving more than \$15 million in direct expenditures and providing hundreds of hours of free programming to public libraries.

2018 is the 10th anniversary GPLS's partnership with **Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites** ParkPass program, where library users are able to check out passes good for free parking and admissions. This relationship led to a partnership with the **Go Fish Education Center** in 2012, which provides patrons free admissions for up to four family members. And in 2016, GPLS partnered with seven Georgia units of the **U.S. National Park Service** to provide a set of 30 park-related books to each library system, reading guides, and local historical programming.

The **Zoo Atlanta Library Pass**, now in its eighth year, enabled more than 85,000 Georgians to visit the zoo free of charge in 2017. The program annually saves families hundreds of thousands of dollars and provides children with opportunities to visit the zoo and participate its many educational programs.

In 2013, Georgia's public libraries began a partnership with **The Center for Puppetry Arts**. The Passport to Puppetry includes free museum admissions—representing a potential savings of up to \$32 per family—as well as discounts to performances from the Center's talented puppeteers and artists.

In partnership with the **Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority**, Georgia's libraries offer the Kill-A-Watt Loan Program, a meter that helps residents annually save thousands on electric bills.

The Check It Out Reading Challenge with the **Atlanta Hawks** is GPLS's longest running partnership. Entering its 14th year, nearly 100,000 free tickets have been awarded

to young readers. And in 2013, GPLS and the **Atlanta Braves** joined together to begin Home Run Readers, where thousands of children have earned free tickets to games.

In May 2017, GPLS began the Hat Trick for Reading Challenge in partnership with the **Atlanta Gladiators** in a regional summer reading program with 19 systems participating. Later in the year, another regional reading program partnership launched with the **Macon Mayhem**, spanning nine library systems in middle and south Georgia.

September 2017 saw the start of a new programming-based partnership with **Second Wind Dreams**, a nonprofit organization dedicated to outreach and education for those who suffer from dementia and their caretakers.

GPLS, the **Georgia National Fair**, and the **Georgia Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture** had a second great year of partnership with a book donation to all 407 libraries as well as giving families the opportunity to earn free tickets to the Fair.

The **Michael C. Carlos Museum's** Georgia Public Libraries Family Pass

program (which admits up to six people to the museum for free) saw an incredible first full year with over 3,000 circulations, the relaunch of a museum summer reading program, and media attention for the accompanying eight-panel educational exhibit that has thus far toured 20 library systems.

GPLS additionally partners with **Blue Path Group**, a partnership designed specifically to benefit the Georgia Libraries for Accessible Statewide Services (GLASS), exhibiting the works of artists with visual and physical impairments. In 2017, a traveling photography exhibit titled "Just Kids" began a tour of public libraries scheduled to run well into 2019.

