

Volusia County Public Library – *Curated Lit Kits to Go*

History / Initial Goals and Objectives

Like many other libraries, Volusia County Public Library suspended in-person programming in spring 2020. With summer approaching, our Youth Services staff was challenged to identify new opportunities to reach young patrons. Our initial goal was to provide a literacy bridge from libraries to young patrons during the COVID-19 pandemic. We also wanted to prevent the “summer slide” by providing books and educational materials to kids in grades K-5.

Lit Kit to Go Registration

Patrons can request a kit in one of two ways: online at volusialibrary.org/kids or by paper form at their local branch. The majority of patrons choose to submit their requests online. The paper and online registration forms are available in English or Spanish.

Patrons can submit one Lit Kit request per week per child. When a patron submits a request online, the branch receives an email notification. Staff strive to complete the Lit Kit request within three days. However, our marketing materials indicate that patrons will be contacted within a week.

Lit Kit to Go Materials

After a kit has been requested, our staff start their behind-the-scenes work to create a kit just for them, based on their age, interests, and topics requested. The form is our guide post.

- We select 3 or more books or other circulating materials for them, which are checked out and returned like any library book. Patrons without library cards can get kits without books. We also include educational materials, such as crafts, staff-created S.T.R.E.A.M. activity kits (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Art, Math), coloring sheets and rhymes/fingerplays. Everything goes into a Volusia County Public Library Lit Kit to Go bag.
- This program is inexpensive to launch and to keep going long term. Use library materials you have! Supplemental materials are designed and created from existing crafting supplies and reproducibles are from educational databases.

Marketing and Recognition

VCPL's *Lit Kit to Go* program is promoted internally through a variety of formats. The *Lit Kit to Go* program is featured on the County of Volusia website and in press releases. We've also instituted a Lit Kit survey for our patrons, and have received wonderful feedback. The Volusia County Public Library is proud to have been honored with the NEFLIN 2020 Innovation Award, as well as the Florida Association of Counties 2020 Best Practices Award.

The *Lit Kit to Go* program has evolved from a temporary COVID-19 service to become an integral part of our youth programming. Since June 2020, over 4,700 Lit Kits have been filled. The Volusia County Public Library is proud to provide young patrons with *Lit Kits to Go* and *Lit Kits to Go, Jr.* – a curated selection of books, activities and educational materials created just for them.



For more information:

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