



# Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

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## **BAY VILLAGE KIDS LOG LONG SUMMER READING HOURS TO ‘ADOPT’ AN EAGLE** CHILDREN EARN LONG-TERM SUPPORT FOR LAKE ERIE NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER RAPTOR

Bay Village, Ohio --- Children of all ages spent long hours wrapped up in a good book this summer, earning a long-term “adoption” of the magnificent bald eagle that resides at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center in Bay Village. The Friends of the Bay Village Cuyahoga County Library branch pledged to pay eagle adoption fees for every hour a local child spent reading, during the “Read, White and Blue” summer reading program.

Hours are still being tallied, but the library estimates the kids racked up more than a year of support for the eagle! The number of hours logged will be announced during a special, free program Monday, August 13 at 7 p.m. at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center. Kids will also have a chance to see their adopted eagle and learn more about the national bird that motivated them to keep turning the pages.

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center’s *Adopt An Animal* program allows wildlife lovers to help pay for the care and feeding of the dozens of animals on exhibit and used in teaching and outreach. Animal Adoption Committee Chair, Helen Hoke, said, “We’re thrilled to see the dedication and hard work of the children who read for the eagle.” Adopt An Animal sponsorships are available for as little as a \$5 per month, with the eagle’s adoption fee set at \$25 per month. Of course, “adopted” animals stay at the Center, but donors can visit them during regular Center hours, daily 10 - 5.

The eagle came to live at the Center in 1998, after permanent wing damage prevented its release by rehabbers in Michigan. The Center keeps the eagle and its other birds under state and federal permits. Center Wildlife Director Dave Wolf said, “Eagles are thriving, but they’re still protected under state and federal laws and it is illegal to possess one without a permit.” Bald eagles were removed from the Endangered and Threatened Species List earlier this summer.

The For the 20<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the Ohio Division of Wildlife reported an increase in the state’s resident bald eagle population, recording 164 nests and 186 eaglets during the 2007 count. In 1979, only four nesting pairs were reported living in Ohio.