



Lake Erie Nature & Science Center
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BAY VILLAGE KIDS LOG 7,000 SUMMER READING HOURS TO ‘ADOPT’ AN EAGLE
Readers Earn Long Term Support For Lake Erie Nature & Science Center Living National Emblem

Bay Village, Ohio --- Children of all ages spent more than 7,000 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. The Friends of the Bay Village Cuyahoga County Library branch promised to pay one month of eagle adoption fees for every 350 hours logged during the “Read, White and Blue” summer reading program.

During a celebration at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center Monday night, Bay Children’s Librarian Susan Ballard announced that the kids racked up 20 months of support for the eagle! “The children exceeded my expectations,” Ballard said. “Our Friends group will be making a generous donation on their behalf.” During the Monday evening celebration, about 50 children and parents also got to see the 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 our eagle.” *Adopt An Animal* sponsorships are available for as little as \$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 a.m. – 5 p.m.

The eagle came to live at Lake Erie Nature & Science 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 government’s Endangered and Threatened Species List earlier this summer.

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