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For Immediate Release

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HOP Animal Architects Exhibit comes to the Library

RAPID CITY (July 21, 2008) – The Rapid City Public Library introduces the HOP Exhibit of Animals as Architects on Wednesday, August 6th at both the downtown and the north library locations. There will be an event to debut the exhibit, including treats and animal-inspired crafts, taking place at 10:00 a.m. at the downtown library (610 Quincy St.) and 1:30 p.m. at the north library (10 Van Buren St.). It's all part of the library's "Catch The Reading Bug" Summer Reading Program.

HOP is the Hands-On-Partnership for Science, Literature and Art in South Dakota. They make traveling exhibits available to libraries across the state, providing a fun learning experience for kids in South Dakota. The 'Animal Architects' exhibit coming to the RCPL libraries showcases the amazing abilities of animals to build homes and nests with the materials available in their environments. From beaver dams to prairie dog towns, from termite towers to intricate spider webs, animals have been building with "renewable resources" long before the concept became a human catchphrase.

The "Hands-On" aspect is one of the great features of the HOP exhibits. How often are kids made to stand a respectful distance away and be told "don't touch" when presented with an enticing educational display. With the HOP exhibit, they can interact with a variety of different components, testing their knowledge, learning more, and – literally -- "putting the pieces together." The exhibit will remain available throughout the month of August.

The Hands On Partnership is sponsored by the SD State Library, SD Discovery Center, Dahl Arts Center, Rawlins Municipal Library, the SD School of Mines & Technology, and grant funding provided by The Institute of Museum & Library Services.

The library's "Catch the Reading Bug" summer reading program encourages kids to read throughout the summer months. It's not too late for kids to pick up a 30 day reading log at either library or download one from www.rapidcitylibrary.org/SummerReading. If they read, or are read to, 15 minutes a day for 30 days, they can turn in their completed reading log to get a prize.

On Sunday, August 24th, the Summer Reading Program comes to an end with a big celebration at both libraries: 1:00 p.m. at the north library and 3:00 p.m. at the downtown library. There will be

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prizes given out for 30 day reading logs, and special prizes and prize-drawings for those who've read for 90 days. It's one of the most exciting days of the year at the Rapid City Public Library.

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The Rapid City Public Library has served the Rapid City area since 1879, and now has two locations, the downtown library at 610 Quincy Street and the north library within General Beadle Elementary School at 10 Van Buren St. Both offer print and electronic resources for adults, young adults and children as well as computers and Internet access and a variety of programs and events. In March 2008, USA Today named the Rapid City Public Library's downtown library as one of the nation's 10 greatest places to "Find a Nook and Read a Book."

Find video footage of RCPL events at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/rapidcitylibrary>

Find photos of RCPL events at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/rcpl/>