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**For Immediate Release**

**Library Card is the essential 'Back To School' resource**

**Rapid City, SD – September 12, 2008** – For anyone back in the swing of school, either as a student or as the parent of one, a library card is one of the greatest resources to have in your academic arsenal.

Say “library” and people often have a vision of the stately building, the peaceful reading rooms, the great repository of books that provided their earliest introduction to new worlds of thought and knowledge. All that is still available, and people take advantage of it every day. What they are sometimes not aware of is how much of that same library is available now online – and with a whole spectrum of added tools and resources that weren’t imagined twenty years ago. Academic resources, business resources, financial resources, the tools span the gamut from live online tutors providing homework help for school kids to automotive wiring diagrams for the do-it-yourself mechanic to downloadable audio books to take on your next road trip. Remember the occasional term paper or report you would madly finish in the wee hours of the morning before due? With a library card, the procrastinating student (or business professional!) can be doing real research online at 3 a.m. -- using the library’s website: [www.rapidcitylibrary.org](http://www.rapidcitylibrary.org).

**That’s why September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month.** Anyone who gets or renews their library card at the Rapid City Public Library before the end of September

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will be entered into a prize drawing for an iBook computer, donated by Computer Village, or an autographed hockey stick, donated by the new Rapid City Rush hockey team. Mayor Alan Hanks will personally present prizes to the winners.

Library card holders can also get special deals at a dozen local businesses that are partnering with RCPL in September. Anyone who shows their library card at: Mt. Rushmore Birds, James Van Nuys Gallery, Mostly Chocolates, Black Hills Community Theatre, FastSigns, Riddle's Jewelry, Culver's, Staple and Spice, Philly Ted's, Bully Blends, Kids Closet and Perk It Up Coffee Shop and get in on discounts, special offers, and prize drawings not available to non-card holders.

Also ending on September 30th, the library's "Declare Your Independence" promotion for using the self-checkout machines. For the next two weeks, library patrons can still get a coupon for a free book from the 'Friends of the Library' if they present five receipts from the Express Checkout machines. Anyone who has been gathering those receipts needs to get them turned in by the end of September.

Find out more about library resources and events by visiting our website at [www.rapidcitylibrary.org](http://www.rapidcitylibrary.org).

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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/>