Beyond The Blog: Edition 5

Beyond The Blog is an evolution of The Patterson Foundation’s storytelling approach focused on creating and sharing engaging content featuring the people, organizations, and communities strengthened through the Foundation's work.
Individually we are ordinary. Together we are extraordinary.

Investing in the Suncoast
Dear Readers,

The Patterson Foundation strives to be a catalyst for good in our world, strengthening the efforts of people, organizations, and communities engaged in shaping our future. Rather than arriving with the answer, we focus on creating opportunities to foster connecting, learning, sharing, evolving, and strengthening among these changemakers — all with an emphasis on generating long-term impact in ways that foster wider participation. No single entity or program has all of the answers — rather, by working together, we create new realities.

Suncoast Remake Learning Days, a recent endeavor of our Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading initiative, personifies that focus. A regional extension of a worldwide movement, Suncoast Remake Learning Days celebrates the bountiful learning opportunities that exist all around us during a 10-day festival stretching across Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties.

Like the Suncoast Campaign, Remake Learning Days recognizes that learning happens everywhere, especially during a child’s early years. That extends well beyond school hours and into the summer months, leading to potential gaps in their education — but also a strong opportunity to fill them. Connecting our children and their

“Individually we are ordinary. Together we are extraordinary.”

Beth Duda, director of the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading
families to learning experiences outside of the classroom can supplement and lend texture to their lessons in school while helping them create new memories together.

The Patterson Foundation invested significant time and resources toward helping our region realize this aspiration, providing a platform for the nonprofit organizations, parks, libraries, businesses, and other local entities behind these everyday educational opportunities to come together, learning from and sharing with one another while developing fun ways to stimulate our children’s curiosity and wonder. Several collaborations among these invaluable Suncoast Remake Learning Days event hosts have evolved into longer-term partnerships that continue to strengthen our region’s educational programs and offerings — an impact that extends well beyond the 10-day festival.

This edition of Beyond The Blog features live snapshots of the children and families enjoying the fun, memorable educational experiences catalyzed through Suncoast Remake Learning Days, along with the perspectives of the TPFers who dedicated months of spirited effort toward fostering the connecting, learning, sharing, evolving, and strengthening that brought them to life.

With joy for the learnings sparked to date and the new realities that emerge,
Suncoast Remake Learning Days

By Rachel Ploss & Kellie Alexander
Welcome to the fifth edition of Beyond The Blog, where we look into just one chapter in the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (SCGLR) book, Suncoast Remake Learning Days (SRLD). If you are new, we are Rachel and Kellie, current fellows with The Patterson Foundation (TPF) and co-editors of Beyond The Blog (BTB), an evolution of The Patterson Foundation’s storytelling approach. We have also been joyfully working on SRLD 2023 since Summer 2022.

SRLD was a FREE regional learning festival from Friday, April 21, 2023, through Sunday, April 30, 2023, in Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties. SRLD consisted of more than 200 events over 10 days hosted by organizations, including schools, museums, libraries, after-school organizations, early child care centers, universities, media outlets, and more.

All events were designed to be hands-on, relevant, and engaging educational experiences for youth of all ages (PreK through high school) and their families, caregivers, and educators. Learning events were grouped by the following themes: Arts, Maker Spaces, Outdoor Learning, Science, Technology, and Youth Voice. There were also Professional Development opportunities for parents and educators.

Did you attend a 2023 Suncoast Remake Learning Days Event?

- Yes, more than one!
- Yes I was able to attend one event!
- No, but I will next year.
- Hmm.. What is this?

POST ANSWER
SRLD sparked learning innovation in communities. This festival was a fun and creative way to establish and affirm parents and families as learning allies. Read more about the event happening here.

Engaging more than 25,000 participants would not have been possible without the collaboration of over 270 partners.

We asked Beth Duda, director of SCGLR, for her thoughts on "the extraordinary" that took place before and during the 10 days. Read about the importance of relationships in Beth’s note.

It was a joy for us to work on the SRLD preparations and connect with all of you while doing it! Thank you to hosts, partners, TPFers, volunteers, and families who embraced the theme: Learning Happens Everywhere. We look forward to propelling opportunities for SRLD 2024!

Did you use the #SuncoastRemakeDays? Check out the social media page to see Artistic Award winners.

We hope you take time to explore the pages of this edition, as it includes recaps of the extraordinary through a media page, podcast, SCGLR connection opportunities, and an invitation to the 2023 Suncoast Remake Learning Days Appreciation Breakfast!

"In many ways, I think the success and 'magic' of Suncoast Remake Learning Days is cultivated due to the connections and relationships formed between collaborating event hosts and the audiences drawn to their events."

Beth Duda, director of the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading
Children's thoughts about Suncoast Remake Learning Days and THIS BOOK IS COOL!
Podcasting is a vehicle for sharing our stories, and storytelling is a powerful form of communication. Rachel Ploss and Kellie Alexander interviewed Beth Duda, director of the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, then transported The Patterson Foundation's podcast equipment to the Suncoast Campaign's Big Literacy Event at Suncoast Technical College.

"Smile at the brilliance as children share their thoughts about Suncoast Remake Learning Days and THIS BOOK IS COOL!"

Click play on the grey bar to listen.
Amplifying Remake Learning Days

Tune in to see Suncoast Remake Learning Days all across the Suncoast!
Suncoast Remake Learning Days is taking place in Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties April 21st - April 30th. Presented by the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading and The Patterson Foundation, more than 200 events will be hosted by a variety of organizations; from schools, libraries, community centers, nonprofits and more. All the events are designed for parents and caregivers to learn alongside their kids and offer relevant and engaging education experiences for youth of all ages (Pre-K through high school), all events are free and open to the public. "We are excited to share the joy of Remake Learning Days Across America right here in the Suncoast Region", said Beth Duda, Director of the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading with The Patterson Foundation. All Suncoast Remake Learning Days events fall under one of six learning themes: arts, maker spaces, outdoor learning, science, technology, and youth voice. There are also professional development sessions for educators, parents, and caregivers. For more information, visit SuncoastRemakeLearningDays.org
At last….Suncoast Remake Learning Days, the world’s largest Remake Learning Days festival happening April 21–30 in Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties is here!

Suncoast Remake Learning Days, presented by the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading with support from The Patterson Foundation, will consist of more than 200 events over ten days. All events are FREE and designed to be hands-on, relevant, and engaging educational experiences for youth of all ages (PreK through high school) and their families, caregivers, and educators.

This year, we are excited to announce SCGLR created an app to help you make the most of this exciting learning festival. The app allows you filter events by county, theme, age, and more to build your own Suncoast Remake Learning Days schedule.

All you need to get started is a mobile device that supports app downloads and an email address. To download the SRLD2023 app:

1. Open the app store on your device supported by Apple App Store and Google Play.
3. Click install to download the app to your device.
4. Enjoy
Thanks to the generosity of The Patterson Foundation, SCGLR brought Remake Learning Days to Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties from April 29th to May 8th, 2022. Suncoast Remake Learning Days was a 10-day festival of free hands-on learning events for children and families. Suncoast Remake Learning Days forged connections between businesses, arts organizations, museums, libraries, schools, colleges, universities, faith-based organizations, out of school organizations, and child care centers, highlighting the important role families and caregivers have in the process of learning and affirming that we are working together toward a greater good and greater outcomes for our children and families. This song parody captures some of the events and excitement shared by more than 10,000 attendees.

Lyrics: Beth Duda
Music Direction: Jim Prosser
Vocalist: Gil Brady
Video Production: Bill Wagy
On behalf of the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading and The Patterson Foundation, we are grateful to the passionaries who presented hands-on learning experiences during this 10-day festival for people of all ages in Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota.
The final 2023 Suncoast Remake Learning Days attendance numbers have been reported and are worthy of pride and celebration.

- Number of Events: 206
- Number of Days: 10
- Number of Attendees: 25,116

That's right, Twenty-five thousand one hundred and sixteen individuals experienced wonder, curiosity, and joy due to the collaborative efforts put forth by you and hundreds of partners in our region.

The community worked hard for Suncoast Remake Learning Days 2023, and now it's time to celebrate! If you hosted, attended, or just want to know more about Suncoast Remake Learning Days, then you're invited to the appreciation breakfast on Friday, June 23rd at Michael's On East. There will be games, delicious food, and a mystery surprise!

[REGISTER HERE](#), and be our guest!
The Suncoast Remake Learning Days Social Media Contest, beginning on April 14th and ending on April 30th brought creativity and fun!

Anyone could enter by using the hashtag #SuncoastRemakeDays on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram. There were 601+ posts made with #SuncoastRemakeDays during the contest days with Saturday, April 22nd having the most posts: 89! Click each image to explore.

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DeSoto County Sheriff’s Office
April 15.

The countdown is on! ONE MORE WEEK until our fun-filled family day with each and every one of you!

You are invited to our first RemakeLearningDays event on Saturday, April 22, 2023 from 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm at the Louis and Gloria Flanzer Club (Boys & Girls Club of DeSoto County).

We are thrilled to be partnering with Desoto Habitat Humanity, DeSoto County Toys For Tots and Calvary Baptist Church - Arcadia, FL to host our event, Building a Strong Family Foundation! 😊

For more information and to RSVP, please check out our Facebook event here: https://www.facebook.com/events/598186905563251

#RemakeDays #SuncoastRemakeDays
Embracing Our Differences

Jessica DiLorenzo McHugh
Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast
April 20

We are excited to host The Great Migration Challenge as part of this year’s Suncoast Remake Learning Days! Join us at Bay Preserve this Tuesday, April 25, for an afternoon of family fun and learning! Together with environmental educator, Sabrina Cummings, participants will learn more about migration and the many hazards and helpers migratory birds encounter. Learn more and RSVP via the link below!

https://www.conservationfoundation.com/.../the-great...

#RemakeDays #SuncoastRemakeDays
Wholehearted Education

Wholeheartedartsandwellness Family Yoga at @thebaysarasota 🌱
#earthday April 22nd at 9 am. This FREE family event will take place at the oval and family members of all ages and abilities are welcome! We hope to see you there ❤️

Thank you to @thepattersonfdn @suncoastcampaign @remakelearningdays for making this event possible.

#suncoastremakedays2023 #suncoastremakedays #freefamilyfun #familyengagement #familyyoga #kisyyoga

Edited · 6w

21 likes
APRIL 21

Add a comment...
What is a LIVE CARTOON! #SuncoastRemakeDays and the World of ChuckO along with the WONDERFUL KIDS of our community!
Mr. J-p Theron, Nancy Osborn Berman, Bonita Miller and the video is from Noriko Sidlow
THANKS TO ALL FOR A WONDERFUL, FUN FILLED, EDUCATION EVENT at the Venice Area Historical Society's TRAIN DEPOT and CIRCUS TRAIN MUSEUM!
We’re excited to host Butterfly Extravaganza! Our Painted Lady caterpillars are fattening up for you to take a closer look at the butterfl...
#Let's Build on Learning

Benefits of Block Play:
- problem-solving
- self-expression
- mathematics
- fine motor skills
- imagination
- creativity
- science
- spacial awareness

Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County

Lamarque Elementary
you to everyone that attended Friday’s #SuncoastRemakeDays Beauty and the Beast j en’s Event at St. Joseph Catholic School. It was such a fun filled evening with crafts, ph
unites with the cast, a musical performance, and of course POPCORN! We are so fort
able to partner with Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, The Patterson
ation, RemakeLearningDays to bring these enrichments to our community and apprec
thing that they do for our school. #RemakeDays #jcseaglesoar 🦅 #BeOurGuestatSJSC
SCGLR is a 4-county effort in Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties in Florida to help children from birth through 3rd grade, especially those from asset-limited families, succeed in life by ensuring they read on grade level. SCGLR is proud to be part of the more than 390 Campaign for Grade-Level Reading communities in 44 states nationwide and in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Canada.

THIS BOOK IS COOL! is a free summer reading program designed to engage the minds of incoming students in grades PreK–3 and encourage their continued learning through reading. The Suncoast Summer Reading Challenge is promoted through local summer camps and businesses to encourage children to read, reducing the summer slide. In 2022, 7,984 children participated in the Suncoast Summer Reading Challenge!
Volunteers are an essential part of SCGLR's success. We count on volunteers to help strengthen the campaign by assisting in solution areas to move the needle of progress for kids in our community. Most of our volunteer events are focused on material preparations for our many programs, and there are various opportunities over the year. When we have a volunteer opportunity, we email sign-up links so you can register for the events you want to help with and post them on the website in the event calendar.

If you would like to receive these emails, please contact Donna Puhalovich at DPuhalovichTPF@Gmail.com or go to SCGLR's website and click on CONNECT and the click on VOLUNTEER WITH SCGLR to learn more or to connect with us!
Thank you for reading
Beyond The Blog
Join the Journey