

## AGE-FRIENDLY SARASOTA



As we cope with the reality created by COVID-19, many people are seeking opportunities to stop the spread while navigating the pandemic in a manner that promotes their own continued well-being. While there is much we have yet to learn about this disease, the world's great minds and scientific communities have uncovered and documented emerging insights to help us live our lives safely in the COVID-19 era. Accessing that knowledge and understanding how it relates to our own activities, however, can prove elusive across the vast, murky space of our digital landscape.

For Floridians, the path toward acquiring knowledge has become much more clear with the new [Florida Safe Survey](#), presented by the [Florida Department of Elder Affairs](#) (DOEA). Powered by the [CV19 CheckUp](#) platform

developed by [BellAge, Inc.](#), the Florida Safe Survey gives residents of all ages an opportunity to make important self-assessments of their COVID-19 behaviors in a format that evaluates their degree of risk while providing recommendations and resources to reduce it. The survey typically takes between 4-9 minutes to complete, and customized results are instantly generated and shared based on questions about a person's health, behaviors, age, living situation, activity level, and experience during the pandemic.

DOEA and the Age-Friendly Sarasota initiative are strengthening efforts to drive participation in the Florida Safe Survey by connecting residents with the survey and its resources. Let's work to promote greater safety and clarity as we continue our collective push beyond this pandemic

## Patriot Plaza Family Engagement Activity Book!

Have you heard of [Patriot Plaza](#)? It's a 2,800-seat ceremonial amphitheater at Sarasota National Cemetery, and features commissioned art that honors veterans, inspires patriotism, and embraces freedom. The space is a place of peace and reflection and exists for our community to honor veterans through ceremonies and events for generations to come.

Parents are questing for more ways to engage with their children, so The Patterson Foundation has created its first ever Patriot Plaza family engagement activity book.

With Veterans Day around the corner, this edition was designed with veterans as its focus and is full of fun ways to learn more about Veterans Day and the different branches of the United States Armed Forces. You can complete the activities at home or take it with you to Patriot Plaza. Admission is FREE.



[Click here to learn the story behind each of the seals.](#)

What is Veterans Day all about? Download the first edition of the [Patriot Plaza Family Engagement Activity Book](#) to find out!

## BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!



## THE SUNCOAST CAMPAIGN FOR GRADE-LEVEL READING

Leaders from our 4-county region shared in the accomplishments of the past 12 months during the campaign's annual Community Update Meeting. Participants learned about the current work happening as SCGLR strengthened its resolve to help children from birth through 3rd grade, especially those from asset-limited families, succeed in life by ensuring they read on grade level.

There were important milestones to celebrate in [Charlotte](#), [DeSoto](#), [Manatee](#), and [Sarasota](#) counties, and SCGLR's collaborative work was once again affirmed with Pacesetter Honors awarded from the national Campaign for Grade-Level Reading.



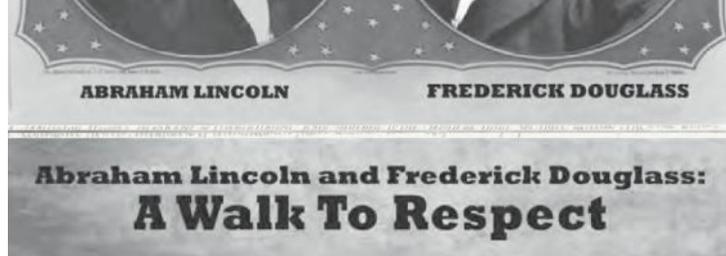
[2019 Pacesetter Honors \(time: 9 minutes\)](#)

## STRONGER ME, STRONGER WE

The Patterson Foundation is investing in our community to provide increased knowledge and personal development, which, in turn, will make our community stronger. Stronger Me, Stronger We provides opportunities for personal growth and connection at no cost as a gift from The Patterson Foundation. In the coming months, [SCGLR will offer FREE Stronger Me, Stronger We workshops throughout our 4-county region to interested individuals.](#)

Stronger Me, Stronger We will give community members and their families the opportunity to virtually come together in small groups, connect, and build knowledge and skills. Each Stronger Me, Stronger We offering is comprised of five one-hour Zoom sessions. Participants can choose from the following workshops:

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[The Patterson Foundation](#) is presenting a viewing of *Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, A Walk to Respect* -- a one-act play taped in February in partnership with the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe -- at 7 pm on Tuesday, December 1, 2020, followed by a one-hour panel discussion. The screening is free and open to anyone who would like to join.

Written by award-winning playwright, Beth Duda, this play features nationally known actor and historical impersonator, Michael Krebs as Abe Lincoln, award-winning actor, Joel PE King as Frederick Douglass, and Spoken-word Poet, Cedric Hameed.

Black abolitionist leader and former slave, Frederick Douglass, and Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the United States of America, clashed in their ideologies regarding race, politics, and slavery. Frederick Douglass, a true radical with a fiery spirit, believed in racial equality for everyone. Douglass dedicated his life, writings, and career to abolishing slavery everywhere. Abraham Lincoln, cautious and considered, while opposed to slavery, was first and foremost a patriot intent on preserving the Union at all costs. These two self-made men, at a time when our divided nation faced annihilation, faced their differences with courage and compassion, forging a friendship that helped to end the Civil War and reunite our nation.

Registration is required... [REGISTER HERE](#)

\*\*The Patterson Foundation is offering new opportunities to continue the Walk to Respect through a guided discussion series this winter.

## IT'S A WRAP! Kind of...



[THIS BOOK IS COOL! 2020 Wrap Up \(time 5 minutes\)](#)



## Vrooming to Literacy

During five 1-hour, guided conversations centered on child development, SCGLR will introduce new games and activities you can use to engage your child and help build their brain. Using proven research, we will practice fun and entertaining methods of encouraging literacy to help children establish a love of learning and reading.



## Mind in the Making

Based on the groundbreaking book by Ellen Galinsky, entitled *Mind in the Making: The Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs*, successful children can focus on their work and control their behavior, figure out what others think and feel, explain what they are thinking, use what they learn creatively, search for reliable information, take on challenges, and engage in learning.

During five 1-hour, facilitated workshops, parents, grandparents, and community members will learn how to strengthen these essential skills and teach them to the children they love. If you're looking for fun and constructive ways to connect with the children in your life, this FREE, interactive experience is right up your alley!

[Click here to explore current opportunities.](#)



## THIS BOOK IS COOL!

THIS BOOK IS COOL! is a series of 100 webisodes to encourage a love of reading. It premiered on June 1, 2020, and 5,302 children participated. Combined, they read 94,383 books during the summer! Due to its success, and because the community wanted more, SCGLR is offering five 1-hour, guided conversations to teach you how to help your child process new information from books and the world around them.

In the spring of 2020 -- as the COVID-19 virus disrupted schools, after school programs, and plans for summer learning -- Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading sprang into action to give children and families motivation to keep reading!

Why? Because 100 years of research has proven that students experience academic learning loss when they are out of school for the summer and do not engage in educational activities.

Luckily, children in Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties participated in SCGLR's THIS BOOK IS COOL!, and boy, did the kiddos excel!

In Charlotte County, there was outcome data for 637 students. The number of children with no reading skill loss = 508. In total, 80% of kids who participated showed NO reading loss. Excellent, Charlotte County!

In DeSoto County, there was outcome data for 417 students. The number of children with no reading skill loss = 243. In total, 58% of kids who participated showed NO reading loss. Keep it up DeSoto County!

In Manatee County, there was outcome data for 798 students. The number of children with no reading skill loss = 589. In total, 74% of kids who participated showed NO reading loss. Great job, Manatee County!

In Sarasota County, there was outcome data for 2,238 students. The number of children with no reading skill loss = 1,660. In total, 74% of kids who participated showed NO reading loss. Great job, Sarasota County!

If you're interested in a behind-the-scenes look into TBIC, including...

- **The book selection process:** What resources did the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading team use to choose books, and why were certain books chosen?
- **Diversity:** How were different elements of diversity reflected in the selected books?
- **Activities:** Each book featured a uniquely designed activity that went along with it. So how were the activities chosen and designed?
- **Family Participation:** How did families participate in TBIC together? What did they enjoy about it?

...read [Abby Rolland's \(TPF Fellow\)](#) recent blog [HERE](#) for video segments that detail the books, diversity, info about THIS BOOK IS COOL! and Mind in the Making, family participation, and THIS BOOK IS COOL! activities. You can also glimpse the entire 'inside look' below.

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## The Power of Presence

Through five 1-hour, guided conversations, you will take a journey that will give insight into improving your ability to be present with your family and community. By sharing your thoughts and experiences, you will help each other discover new ways to strengthen connections.

Are you ready to take the first step? Join us, as we discover Joy Thomas Moore's seven pillars of presence:

- Mind
- Heart
- Faith
- Courage
- Financial Freedom
- Values
- Connectedness



[An inside look into THIS BOOK IS COOL! \(time 21 minutes\)](#)

We welcome your thoughts. Contact us at [info@GradeLevelReadingSuncoast.net](mailto:info@GradeLevelReadingSuncoast.net).