



Astonished! Summer Literacy Program (2026) Expression of Interest

Background Information

Astonished! Inc is a registered non-profit charity based in Regina, Saskatchewan. We work in an **inclusive community** to address barriers facing young adults with complex physical disAbilities (**Core Members**) by creating opportunities for teaching and learning; social, recreational and cultural engagement; and for employment and housing. One of our four program areas is the **Astonished! Summer Literacy Program**.

Program Overview

A summer program designed to explore and respond to the literacy strengths, dreams, and needs of Astonished! Core Members. Program content is shaped by the strengths, dreams, and needs of each participant. To begin, Astonished! staff work with each participant, and those close to them, to identify their 'Literacy Strengths, Dreams, and Needs'. Example dreams might include; developing literacy skills (reading, numeracy, technology, etc.), increasing literacy skills, or simply having more time to read and/or use various forms of technology. Based on the strengths, dreams, and needs expressed, program participants will be offered individualized opportunities and/or group opportunities.

Some of the noteworthy successes of previous summers include: working with the ALL Curriculum (Accessible Literacy Learning) to develop and refine pre-literacy skills; participating in a book club; enhancing financial/numerical literacy skills; engaging in creative writing exercises; learning about health literacy (nutrition) and exploring a variety of technological literacy such as websites, social media and various 'apps'. Optional evening sessions included cultural literacy lessons, visiting local establishments, and game nights.

The program will be comprised of 16 sessions with each session running from 1:00-4:00 at the University of Regina. Program participants are responsible for their own transportation to and from the University as well as their own personal care (washroom needs and medical).

Afternoon Sessions:

July 2,8,9,15,16,22,23,29,& 30

August 5,6,12,13,19,20,

Wrap up BBQ August 20th 6:00pm - 8:00 pm at Candy Cane Park

Notes:

1. This year Astonished will be once again offering the Big Sky Summer Adventure Program. Core Members participating in Summer Literacy will have first access to the Summer Adventure Program. The program will run one evening a week or on the weekend (more information coming soon).
2. This year all Core Members participating in the Summer Literacy program will be asked to:
 - a. Provide \$25.00 towards a summer raffle (due July 2nd)
 - b. Sell (or purchase) a full booklet of raffle tickets
 - c. Make a contribution to a summer bake sale at the garden

Requirements for Summer Literacy 2026

- ✓ Active Astonished! Core Member¹.
- ✓ Commitment to Social Inclusion.
- ✓ Desire to work cooperatively with other program participants, staff, volunteers, and companions.
- ✓ Interest in literacy (traditional, health, tech, numerical, etc).
- ✓ Provide a companion/attendant if you require personal care during program (washroom and medical). Please note Astonished! staff and volunteers will provide support with jackets, nutrition and program activities.
- ✓ Transportation to and from program activities (University of Regina)

Application Process

¹ Young adults 18-35 years of age with complex physical disAbilities, who support the dream, vision and guiding principles of the organization are Core Members and as such are not required to pay membership fees. We do however require a membership form to be completed. For more information, please visit <http://www.beingastonished.com/become-a-member/>.

Interested Core Members who meet the above criteria can express interest in becoming a participant in the literacy program by filling out the application included below. Completed applications can be sent to melissa.turbuck@beingastonished.com by May 12th, 2026.

If you are not a current Core Member please visit <https://www.beingastonished.com/become-a-member/> to sign up for your free membership!

'Expression of Interest Form' below ...

**Expression of Interest
Summer Literacy 2026**

Applicant Information	
Name:	Core-Member <input type="checkbox"/>
Email Address:	Phone Number:

Share with us why you are interested in taking part in this program.

Please indicate what types of activities you think you might be interested in (select all that interest you):

- Individualized or group lessons to increase pre-literacy skills and/or emerging literacy skills

- Shared Reading (as a group, participants select a book and work through the book together. Participants may choose to read aloud to the group or relax and enjoy hearing the story read aloud).

- Social Media Lessons (examples include Facebook, Pinterest, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, Vine, etc.).

- Comprehension activities (examples include story mapping, definitions/vocabulary, multiple choice questions, word cloud etc. Participants may work on the activities alone or with the support of Astonished! staff and other participants).

- Learning or having more time/support to use various 'Applications' / Technology.

- Lessons to increase financial/numerical literacy.

- Other! Do you have any other things that you would like to learn about / try? List them here!

Each summer we read a book together. Core Members, volunteers, and staff take turns reading aloud to the group (don't worry if you don't want to read aloud you don't have to). We then work together to answer questions about the book and complete other fun activities. Examples of books we have read in the past include: Gregor the Overlander, Laughing at my Nightmare, Crazy Rich Asians, The Perks of being a Wallflower, Wonder, Strangers Assume my Girlfriend is my Nurse. *Do you have any suggestions for a book we could read together this summer? If so please list them here!*

In an effort to get to know you better, please list any activities you participate in and elaborate on your interests.

Please identify any support that you think you might need in order to participate in this summer program. Do you need to borrow a device from Astonished! (iPad), do you need support using your device?