



CODY STARK/THE HUNTSVILLE ITEM
Johnnie Jo Dickenson is teaching a "Junior Genealogists" class for students interested in learning about their family trees this summer at the Huntsville Public Library. The five-week program begins Thursday.

Program to introduce youngsters to genealogy

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It's never too early to pique a young person's interest about exploring their family tree.

The Huntsville Public Library has a program this summer aimed at doing just that. Huntsville historian Johnnie Jo Dickenson will teach "Junior Genealogists" how to research their family history over the course of five weeks, beginning Thursday.

"Johnnie Jo approached us and said she wanted to do a genealogy program for kids," library children's coordinator Rachel McPhail said. "She is such a great wealth of knowledge. She just knows so much about genealogy and this program will be beneficial to the students. You might think genealogy is for adults, but this is really about getting to know your grandparents, your great-grandparents, your whole family."

Young people between the ages of 9 to 12 will be able to

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learn what their ancestors were like, what they did for a living and what they might have done in their leisure time.

Students will make a binder of records to keep track of their research and they will also receive a certificate of completion once the five-week program is over.

“This program is also academically based so the kids will also be learning how to research on databases and

getting research skills,” McPhail said. “They will have to interview family members and find out what they know about their family trees, which they will make.”

The program will continue June 21, June 28, July 12 and July 19. The class will be held from 3 to 4:45 p.m. with a 15 minute break for snacks, which will be provided by the library.

The class is limited to 20 students, so registration is required.

For more information, contact McPhail at (936) 291-5910. People can register their students online at my-huntsvillelibrary.com.