

Oshkosh Public Library Highlights August 2023

1. The chosen one's birthday continues to generate excitement and the Harry Potter faithful came out in force to celebrate with the library in July. More than 200 entries were received in a drawing for a HP LEGO set and 80 people attended an OPL-sponsored screening of Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone at the Time Community Theater on July 30. Teen Librarian Maggie Mueller reported that numerous families – including the girl who won the drawing – visited the library multiple times to enter the drawing. It's a great example of the library bringing the community together around beloved books and reading!
2. Community Engagement activities continue to gather steam, with CE Librarian Sandy Toland now conducting card clinics regularly at eight sites and setting up two additional sites in September. Current locations include Oshkosh Area Community Pantry, Evergreen, Oshkosh YMCA (20th Avenue), Gabriel's Villa, Bella Vista, Carmel Residence, Oakwood Manor and Simenna I, II, III. Courtyard Oshkosh and Aspire Senior living are scheduled to be added in September.

Outcomes include:

- Library cards easily issued or updated on site.
 - Convenient requests, pick up and returns of materials by residents, customers and staff.
 - Introduction to and education about how to use library services, resources and collections such as Home Delivery, TIY Kits, Hoopla and Libby.
3. Hands-on learning experiences are popular and effective and the library partnered with Winnebago County 4H in July to offer what was arguably one of the most eggs-citing opportunities to date. ChickQuest offered children the opportunity to learn about the life cycle of chickens with hands-on experiments and activities – all while watching eggs incubate in the library's lower level. Even children who didn't take part in the educational sessions kept an eye on the incubator and everyone was thrilled when the eggs hatched at the end of July!
 4. More than 1,700 Oshkosh readers logged 1.8 million minutes of reading during the 2023 Summer Reading Challenge. Of those who registered, almost 60 percent completed the program! More than 100,000 rewards were earned during the program. One reported highlight: Adults entered more than 3,000 tickets in drawings for Oshkosh prize packages. That's 200 minutes read per ticket!
 5. Thirty people attended the program, Blazing the Yellowstone Trail, on Aug. 1. Presenter Peter Christianson shared the story of South Dakota businessmen who created a driving route across America that paved the way for future travel. Thanks to the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society for sponsoring.

6. A new drop-in program for children and families was a consistent draw this summer, making the library a popular Saturday stop for learning and fun. Stay and Play Saturdays offered two hours of self-led activities, games and projects, along with a librarian-compiled Book Nook of reading suggestions designed to keep kids engaged with the day's theme at home. Attendance for the summer topped 220 and was consistent throughout the 11 sessions.