

Oshkosh Public Library Highlights July 2019

1. Oshkosh Public Library is building a collection of TIY (Try It Yourself) Kits for the public to check out. The first kit focuses on stargazing and includes a set of binoculars and a user guide. There are three kits available. A second kit will offer jewelry-making tools and a book about beading and other jewelry making (to coincide with the Paine Art Center's new Maker & Muse Jewelry Exhibition). Children's and Family Outreach Services is also developing a set of STEAM-themed TIY Kits with a human anatomy model, rocks and minerals, a fingerprint kit, microscope, circuit kit and more. The goal is to allow library users the opportunity to try something new and expand their knowledge in a hands-on way, at no cost.
2. The Oshkosh Public Library and the Winnebago County Literacy Council are working to ensure that kids in the Boys and Girls Summer program are maintaining their reading skills. Club members have been visiting the library in small groups so that every child visits several times over the summer. Each group was registered for the summer reading challenge and enjoyed a special storytime and book talk on their first visit. They also read for 20 minutes to "Be Fine Free," with a good number of overdue fees waived. The Literacy Council tested each child at the start of summer and will test again at the end to assess progress. The library will also present a rocket program at the club, conducted by Oshkosh West science teacher John Reiland.
3. Explorers Grove is the backdrop for a new evening program this summer: Stories by Starlight. Families are invited to wind down at the end of a busy day with stories under the tree every Tuesday evening. Kids are encouraged to wear their pajamas and bring along their favorite stuffed animal.
4. Kids, teens and families are making the most of opportunities to learn and grow this summer at the library, with a dynamic mix of music, DIY experiences, STEAM programs and animal adventure. Highlights over the past month include:
 - A visit from animals from the NEW Zoo and a Kitten Kuddle for teens, with a combined attendance of 233.
 - A concert by the Grammy-nominated Spektral Quartet of the Green Lake Festival of Music, with 85 attending.
 - Outerspace STEAM Lab (formerly Wonderlab) and the new Flash Fridays have drawn a combined 90 people over four sessions.
 - Teens made galaxy tie-dye T-shirts and galactic night lights in keeping with our summer space theme, with 44 attending.
5. Oshkosh Media shot video at the library in June, highlighting our *Stranger Things* Trivia for teens, the library's Tech Lab and Explorers Grove. The *Stranger Things* segment was posted to the Oshkosh Media YouTube Channel in late June to promote the event and the Explorers Grove and Tech Lab packages are in production. Library marketing staff is working with Oshkosh Media

to develop an editorial calendar of video opportunities that will help to share the OPL story with the community and create rich local content for the viewers of Oshkosh Media.

6. OPL is taking programming on the road this summer, with two tours designed to educate and inform. The library is hosting tours of the Oshkosh Masonic Center in July and August as a follow up to a program at the library on Oshkosh's fraternal organizations. There also was a tasty tour of UWO's edible gardens on July 16, as a follow up to a June program on creating an edible garden.