

Oshkosh Public Library Highlights September 2020

1. OPL's take-home kits were a popular off-line learning option for families this summer. Patrons picked up 527 STEAM Kits via curbside service in July and August, including Botany in a Bag, Skittle Chromatography, Catapult Engineering and UV Color Changing Beads. The Children's Department may also offer take-home kits in conjunction with Wonderlab video programming this winter, allowing kids and families a hands-on experience at home as part of this popular STEAM program.
2. Congratulations to Ruth Percey and Matt Schrottky, who received the STAR Award (Staff Appreciation and Recognition) recently from the City of Oshkosh. Ruth and Matt were recognized for their work to establish curbside service in response to the COVID-19 health emergency. They have rallied staff to keep the service operating smoothly and modify it over time to offer the best service possible to our patrons. Curbside service has allowed OPL to continue offering the materials that our patrons value and has helped to keep those patrons engaged with the library. Congratulations to Ruth and Matt for leading the charge!
3. Staff in the Children's Department worked with the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh to bring hundreds of books and hands-on learning experiences to children at the club during July and August. Each month library staff assembled collections of 190 books for children ages 6-12, which club staff picked up via OPL's curbside service. Library staff also delivered 140 STEAM Kits to the club. As the pandemic continues to limit library visits, this service offered access to reading and learning materials that was greatly appreciated by the Boys & Girls Club.
4. Connecting our patrons with library materials continues to be especially important while the public cannot visit the library to browse the collection. Though staff has always offered reading recommendations, the Children's Department worked with marketing staff to package this service – creating Book Bundles. When families call, staff work with them to determine the types of books their children will enjoy. Since branding the service and promoting it in the library eNewsletter and other outlets, there has been a 25 percent increase in these subject-related requests.
5. OPL is encouraging creativity in our community with two contests and supporting programming. **F Stop: Shelter** invites teens and adults to submit original photos that reflect their interpretation of shelter. Prizes will be awarded and winning photos will be displayed on the OPL website and social media accounts. Programs led via Zoom by local photographers will offer perspectives on photo composition and storytelling, technique and displaying photos. Camera Casino is a supporting sponsor of F Stop:Shelter. Besides nurturing creativity, this effort will offer a record of daily life during a global pandemic

Our ***Two-Sentence Horror Story Contest*** asks teens to tell a scary story in just two sentences. Two writing workshops held via Zoom will help to get those creepy compositions on track. Prizes will be awarded and stories shared on OPL's website. Details for F Stop and the Two Sentence Horror Story Contest are at oshkoshpubliclibrary.org.