

rediscover reading



Idaho Falls Public Library

## Community Engagement and Adult/Teen Programming August 2025

Information gathered from June 1 – August 23, 2025  
Submitted by Beth Swenson

### Adult/Young Adult Programs

- **4-H:** 1 events, 1 person <--- This is in conjunction with the University of Idaho Extension 4-H program. It's been a busy summer for them, so we're going to try again in September.
- **Book Friends Silent Book Club:** 2 events, 16 people
- **Chapter 2 Book Club:** 3 events, 25 people, titles: *Tress of the Emerald Sea* by Brandon Sanderson; *A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of an American Spy Who Helped Win World War II* by Sonia Purnell; *Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir
- **Chess Club Wednesdays:** 12 events, 36 people
- **Chess Club Saturdays:** 12 events, 42 people
- **Conversaciones:** 11 events, 86 people
- **Crazy Crafters:** 12 events, 196 people
- **Cuéntame un libro:** 2 events, 12 people
- **D&D Days (Dungeons & Dragons):** 12 events, 169 people
- **Family Game Night:** 11 events, 59 people
- **Great Book Giveaway:** 2 months, 386 entries, sets given away: Latest Grisham; LOTR Collection; Literary Fiction; Leatherbound Louis L'Amour
- **The Heart of Hospice:** 2 events, 2 people
- **Literary Society:** 3 events, 18 people
- **LybraryWyrms:** 12 events, 113 people
- **Money Matters:** 1 event, 4 people
- **Narcan:** 1 event, 40 people
- **Never Too Late:** 3 events, 18 people <--- returning program! We received the grant for this program this year from the Idaho Commission for Libraries and Arts Idaho, and we have a local piano teacher teaching beginning piano.
- **One More Chapter Book Club:** 2 events, 19 people, titles: *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig; *The 101 Most Influential People Who Never Lived* by Alan Lazar, Dan Karlan, and Jeremy Salter
- **Paper Arts:** 3 event, 80 people
- **Pokémon Club:** 12 events, 64 people

- **Summer Reading – Adults:** 1075 people
- **Summer Reading – Teens:** 534 people
- **Teen Camps:** 2 weeklong events (5 days each), 95 people
  - **Teen Summer Writing Camp:** 83 participants
  - **Camp Curiosity:** 12 participants <--- new program! This obviously didn't take off as well as I had hoped. I have some ideas of how get more teens involved next year.
- **U of I Extension programs:** 1 event, 5 people, program title: Stress Management
- **Write Over Here:** 12 events, 110 people
- **Write Over Here for Teens:** 10 events, 57 people
- **Your Future is Now:** 1 event, 7 people
- **Special programs/events**
  - **Authorpalooza:** 1 event, 134 people <--- new program! In the morning, we had an adult writing workshop; in the afternoon was author panels and meet & greets with the authors. Sixteen local author attended!
  - **Paws & Pages** (in conjunction with Children's and Teton Toyota): 3 events, 90 people
    - For three events this summer, Teton Toyota staff came and did a story time with IFPL patrons. Each eligible patron (K-2nd grade) received a book donated by Teton Toyota featuring a dog. We even had a special guest of a dog come one day!
  - **Summer Reading Party** (in conjunction with Children's): 1 event, 350 people
    - Ain't no party like a Summer Reading party! Patrons had snacks, played lawn and carnival games, and entered to win prizes. To help us pull off this event, we had amazing volunteers: Jerry (balloon animals), Friends of the Library, an employee from Curtiss Wright and his son, and some of our awesome regular Summer Reading volunteers.

**Total events: 170; total people: 8,379\***

\*These numbers do not have Paws & Pages or the Summer Reading Party added to them, as those numbers appear on the Children's report.

Photos from recent programs, pages 3 - 9



Figure 1 / Jun 9, 2025 - Teen Summer Writing Camp



Figure 2 / June 10, 2025 - Paws & Pages

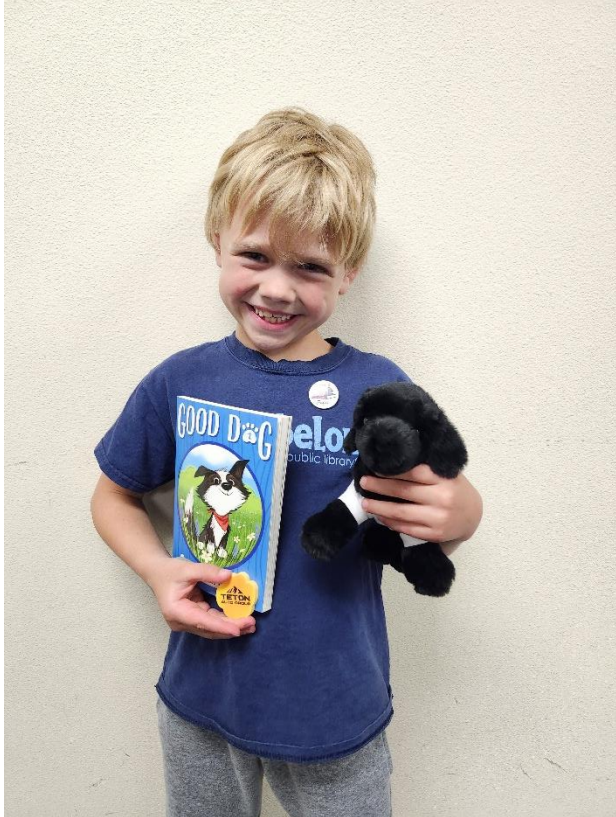


Figure 3 / June 10, 2025 - A very cute Paws & Pages patron



Figure 4 / June 11, 2025 - LybraryWyrms



Figure 5 / June 14, 2025 - Authorpalooza



Figure 6 / July 8, 2025 - Paws & Pages



Figure 7 / July 8, 2025 - Paws & Pages



Figure 8 / August 6, 2025 - Library League Trivia



Figure 9 / August 6, 2025 - Library League Trivia winners with custom 3D printed trophies from Makerspace



Figure 10 / August 7, 2025 - Never Too Late



Figure 11 / August 11, 2025 - Summer Reading Party



Figure 12 / August 11, 2025 - Summer Reading Party



Figure 13 / August 12, 2025 - Paws & Pages



Figure 14 / August 21, 2025 - Never Too Late

### **Extreme Book Nerd signups (total since January 8):**

- Adult Extreme Book Nerd: 351 registered; 47 completed (13%)
- Teen Extreme Book Nerd: 73 registered, 5 completed (7%)
- Book Nerd Your Way (adult): 539 registered, 98 completed (18%)
- Book Nerd Your Way (teen): 91 registered, 12 completed (13%)
- Total registered: 1,054; total completed: 162 (15%)

### **Turn the Page Reading Program for Teens (total since February 24):**

- Registered: 59; prizes claimed: 75

### **Upcoming special events and programs**

- Telescope Lending with Idaho Falls Astronomical Society: Idaho Falls Astronomical Society has donated two telescopes to us to lend out to patrons. In order to borrow the telescopes, the patrons must have a library membership in good standing and sign an agreement.
- Golden Ticket: To celebrate National Library Card Sign-up Month in September, we are encouraging patrons to use their cards by searching for Golden Tickets hidden in books on the 3rd Floor. If the patron finds a ticket, they can enter into a drawing for gift card from a local restaurant.
- Career Exploration and Job Preparation: Bob Devine, a retired local educator, will guide patrons in discovering where their job talents may lie, in addition to promoting services from LiLL and LinkedIn. For ages 16-76. Thursdays in September, 6:30-8pm.
- Austen Ball: practices on September 23 and 30, Ball on October 7.
- Yule Ball / Magical Mayhem (still deciding on official title) will celebrate all things Harry Potter on November 13, 5-8pm.
- Let's Talk About It will return in January, as we received this program again from the Idaho Commission for Libraries. The theme will be *Through Indigenous Story*.

### **Upcoming changes to programs**

- Due to upcoming staffing and budgeting changes, these programs will be affected:
  - Pokémon Club: As Children's is shuttering their program, we will too.
  - Money Matters will no longer be a monthly program, due to low patron attendance and difficulty in getting experts to present. It's possible this will come back as a special series in April for Financial Literacy Month.
  - Literary Society will be canceled after the December meeting. The attendance is pretty decent, but since we use multiple staff members to run the program, scheduling has always been a little bit difficult, and will be even more difficult with reduced staff hours.

- For Blind Date with a Book and Trick or Treat, we will rely on volunteers to wrap and decorate the books, as we do about 400-600 books, and staff priorities will be elsewhere.
- Major events such as Austen Ball, Yule Ball, and EBN Kickoff will also need a lot of volunteer power in order to run optimally.

## Makerspace

### Programs

- **Brickfast Club:** 11 events, 83 people
- **Coding for Kids:** 43 events, 86 people
- **Tech for Teens:** 41 events, 61 people
- **Teen INC (Innovate & Create):** 10 events, 58 people

**Total events: 105; total people: 288**

## Community Engagement and Outreach

### Events

- New paint: We gave the 2nd Floor Program Room a fresh coat of paint and a church group help us paint it. The room is now more vibrant and welcoming
- Kiwanis Club of Idaho Falls
  - As part of a member of the Kiwanis Club of Idaho Falls, I assisted with the Hope of America Award ceremony, in honor of the local 6th graders who received the award.
  - I volunteered at the Mountain America Center to serve concessions for the Riley Green concert on August 22 to raise money for the Kiwanis scholarship at College of Eastern Idaho.
- Rotary Club of Idaho Falls
  - I volunteered to sell ducks for the annual Great Snake River Greenbelt Duck Race at the farmers' market and the event itself.

### Publicity

- July 2: I joined with Stacy Butcher to discuss with Jolyn Thomas from KID Newradio the Paws & Pages program and the importance of early literacy. Sadly, I couldn't find a recording of the interview.
- August 1: I interviewed with East Idaho News' intern Treydon Baylor about library services and programs:  
<https://www.eastidahonews.com/2025/08/more-than-books-how-idaho-falls-library-serves-the-community/>

## Upcoming

- August 28: I will be presenting at the Senior Center about library services and the Talking Book Service

Photos from recent community engagement events



Figure 15 / June 19, 2025: Volunteers painting the 2nd Floor Program Room



Figure 16 / July 2, 2025: Beth and Stacy Butcher at KID Newsradio. Courtesy KID Newsradio, via Facebook



Figure 17 / August 9, 2025: Beth hawking ducks at the Great Snake River Greenbelt Duck Race

## Happy Patron Stories

- [A longtime patron] made a beanstack account and she is so excited to get her Tshirt! I love how Summer Reading is so inclusive! - Lisha, 6/11/25
- The man using the audio room today is literally being interviewed by BBC news. I just met the reporter. – Sami, 6/18/25
- Just had a teenager come up to get his summer reading prizes and he was telling me how much he loves the program and how he doesn't understand why his friends won't do it. And then when he left he said “Till we meet again” which was very funny. – Ashley, 6/30/2525
- There is an older gentleman sitting at the tables teaching a kid that he just met to play chess, and it is the sweetest thing to hear!! – Camille, 7/19/2025
- Thomas [Sami's husband] told me today the checkout lady at Winco complimented his summer reading shirt and was going off about how excited she was that she just got hers. She looks forward to it every year. – Sami, 8/25/25