

rediscover reading



Idaho Falls Public Library

Adult Services, Young Adult Services, and Makerspace – October 2024

Information gathered from September 2, 2024 – October 17, 2024

Adult/Young Adult Programs

- **Austen Ball:** 3 events, 248 people total
Patrons are invited to learn the dances common during the Regency time period when Jane Austen lived. The dances are led by a volunteer. Medium IFPL staff involvement: minimal for practices, heavy for the official Ball.
- **Book Club in a Bag nominations and voting:** 79 nominations, voting goes until November 25.
Patrons help pick which Book Club in a Bag sets the Library carries. Patrons nominated titles, then vote on them; IFPL staff make the final determination. Heavy IFPL staff involvement.
- **Caregiver Connections:** 2 events, 45 people total
This program is taught by The Alzheimer's Association: Greater Idaho Chapter, to help caregivers find a place to socialize while also learning about their new roles as caregivers in their families. IFPL staff present about library resources each event. Moderate IFPL involvement.
- **Chapter 2 Book Club:** 2 events, 23 people total, titles: September – *I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives* by Caitlin Alifirenka & Martin Ganda; October – *The Keeper of Lost Things* by Ruth Hogan
A book club moderated by an IFPL staff member using the Book Club in a Bag collection. Moderate IFPL staff involvement.
- **Family Game Night:** 7 events, 37 people total
Families and friends are encouraged to use our space and available games or puzzles for bonding. Minimal IFPL staff involvement.
- **Great Book Giveaway:** 1 month, 115 entries total, sets given away: *The Septuagenarians*; *Uncommon Heroes*
Every time a patron checks out a book from the 3rd Floor, they can ask for a ticket to put into one of two book giveaways, created from donations. The tickets are counted at the end of the month and a winner for each set is drawn. Medium IFPL staff involvement, as staff put together the sets and curate the tickets.

- **Literary Society:** 2 events, 15 people total, topic: Banned Books; Horror
Run by IFPL staff, this monthly event invites patrons to come discuss their favorite books in a specific topic or genre. Heavy IFPL staff involvement.
- **LybraryWyrms:** 6 events, 26 people total
Teens can learn the basics of Dungeons and Dragons during these month-long mini-campaigns. Heavy IFPL staff involvement.
- **Money Matters:** 2 events, 5 people total
An educational series on banking, mortgage, credit, insurance, etc. Minimal IFPL staff involvement.
- **Never Too Late:** 4 events, 50 people total
Never Too Late is geared towards older adults (ages 55+) and is inspired by the adage that it's never too late to learn. Minimal to medium IFPL staff involvement, as the goal is to bring in outside speakers to the library.
- **Paper Arts:** 2 events, 41 people total
A volunteer-led program where bookmaking and pop-up techniques are taught; materials provided by IFPL. Moderate IFPL staff involvement.
- **Take A Look:** 2 events, 9 people total
Patrons can get a deeper look into IFPL services and databases. Moderate-heavy IFPL staff involvement, as a member of the community is an expert on some of the databases.
- **Trick or Treat:** Runs October 1-31, total entries: ongoing
Patrons get a ticket to enter into a drawing for a gift card from one of four downtown businesses for each day that they check out a wrapped book, which could either be a trick or treat. Patrons are not required to read the book. Heavy IFPL staff involvement, as they wrap and decorate the books.
- **Write Over Here:** 7 events, 51 people total
Patrons are encouraged to work on and share their current writing projects. An IFPL staff member leads discussions on topics pertaining to plot, characters, etc. Moderate IFPL staff involvement.
- **Write Over Here for Teens:** 7 events, 22 people total
Patrons are encouraged to work on and share their current writing projects. An IFPL staff member leads discussions on topics pertaining to plot, characters, etc. Geared towards those in 7-12 grades. Moderate IFPL staff involvement.

Adult/Young Adult Programs – Patron Led

- **Chess Club Wednesdays:** 5 events, 14 people total
A patron-led program that aims to teach people the basics of chess and inspire friendly competition. No IFPL staff involvement.

- **Chess Club Saturdays:** 6 events, 11 people total
A patron-led program that aims to teach people the basics of chess and inspire friendly competition. No IFPL staff involvement.
- **Conversaciones:** 6 events, 37 people total
Patrons practice their English-speaking skills in this patron led class. No IFPL involvement.
- **Crazy Crafters:** 7 events, 162 people total
A patron-led program where patrons can bring their current projects and socialize. No IFPL staff involvement.
- **Cuéntame un libro:** 0 events, 0 people total
Patrons discuss books in their preferred language of Spanish. No IFPL involvement.
- **D&D Days (Dungeons & Dragons):** 5 events, 81 people total
A patron-led program where patrons are able to gather and play through a session of Dungeons & Dragons. No IFPL staff involvement.
- **Snake River Audubon Society:** 0 events, 0 people
The SRAS focuses on birds in Idaho. No IFPL staff involvement.

Adult/Young Adult Programs – Partners

- **Scouting membership drive:** 1 event, 250 people total
IFPL teamed with Scouts to get patrons interested in the Scouting program. IFPL is hoping to start a troop soon.
- **Eat Smart, Move More:** 1 event, 6 people total
Presented by University of Idaho Extension, this program helps patrons make healthier choices. Minimal IFPL staff involvement.

Adult/Young Adult Programs – Tours

- **Group:** 1 event, 21 people total
Beth presented about the Library to the Friends for Learning group. She fielded many good questions about Libby and ongoing programs. The participants were extremely grateful for the information and brochures that were given out.

Total events: 79

Total people: 1,342

Photos from recent programs, pages 4 - 12



Figure 1 / Scouting Connections, September 10, 2024



Figure 2 / Scouting Connections, September 10, 2024



Figure 3 / Scouting Connections, September 10, 2024



Figure 4 / Austen Ball practice, September 17, 2024



Figure 5 / Austen Ball practice, September 17, 2024



Figure 6 / Austen Ball practice, September 24, 2024



Figure 7 / Austen Ball practice, September 24, 2024



Figure 8 / Never Too Late, September 30, 2024



Figure 9 / Austen Ball, October 1, 2024



Figure 10 / Austen Ball, October 1, 2024



Figure 11 / Austen Ball, October 1, 2024



Figure 12 / Austen Ball, October 1, 2024



Figure 13 / Never Too Late, October 1, 2024



Figure 14 / Never Too Late, October 1, 2024



Figure 15 / Cute kid feeding the fish, October 2, 2024



Figure 16 / Trick or Treat book decorated by staff



Figure 17 / Trick or Treat book decorated by staff

Extreme Book Nerd signups (total since January 3):

- Adult Extreme Book Nerd: 446 registered; 76 completed (17%)
- Teen Extreme Book Nerd: 87 registered, 7 completed (8%)
- Book Nerd Your Way (adult): 414 registered, 105 completed (25.3%)
- Book Nerd Your Way (teen): 79 registered, 18 completed (22.7%)
- Total registered: 1,026; total completed: 206 (20%)

Upcoming programs

- Caregiver Connections, Wednesdays, 12pm
 - November 6, November 20
- Chapter 2 Book Club, Tuesdays, 7pm
 - November 12: *Ella Minnow Pea* by Mark Dunn
 - December 10: TBD
- Chess Club Saturdays, Saturdays, 11am
- Chess Club Wednesdays, Wednesdays, 7pm
- Conversaciones, Fridays, 5pm
- Crazy Crafters, Tuesdays, 7pm
- Cuéntame un libro, Mondays, 6pm
 - November 18
 - December 9
- D&D Days, Saturdays, 2pm

- Eat Smart, Move More, Thursdays, 6:30pm
 - October 24
 - October 30 (moved to Wednesday due to Halloween)
 - November 7
 - November 14
 - November 21
- Family Game Night, Thursdays, 6:30pm
- Literary Society, Thursdays, 7pm
 - November 21: Historical Mysteries
 - December 19: Dystopian
- LybraryWyrms, Wednesdays, 4:30pm
- Money Matters, Wednesdays, 6:30pm
 - November 13: Dealing with Death, Kyle Larsen, Coltrin Mortuary
 - December 11: Managing Money – A Caregiver’s Guide to Finances, Jody Cornilsen, Alzheimer’s Association
- NaNoWriMo
 - All day writing marathon: November 2, 10:30am-5:30pm
 - Storytelling for Writers: November 2, 12pm
 - All day writing marathon: November 30, 10:30am-5:30pm
 - Plus various writing times throughout the month
- Paper Arts, Wednesdays, 6:30pm
 - November 20: Two mini Christmas carol books
 - December 4: Pop-up holiday cards
- Take A Look, Fridays, 10:30am
 - November 15: HeritageQuest Online Part II
 - December 13: Microfilm and Treasures from the Idaho Room
- Write Over Here, Tuesdays, 7pm
- Write Over Here for Teens, Thursdays, 4:30pm

Upcoming special events in 2024

- Your Health Idaho
 - Pop-up events on Friday, October 25, 10:30am-4:30pm and Saturday, October 26, 10:30am-5:45pm
- New programs in the works
 - EBN 10-year celebration
 - A monthly teen challenge for non-readers
 - A morning discussion club where patrons can come discuss ideas (purpose: to bring people into the library and help combat loneliness)

Makerspace

Programs

- **Brickfast Club:** 6 events, 49 people total
All ages are invited to come build with our LEGO-like bricks. Minimal IFPL staff involvement.
- **Coding for Kids:** 29 events, 82 people total
Kids (ages 8-12) learn the basics of Scratch (a coding language) over a six-week period. Heavy IFPL staff involvement.
- **Tech for Teens:** 15 events, 35 people total
Teens (ages 12-17) focus on one Makerspace element, such as drones or 3D printing, over a six-week period. Heavy IFPL staff involvement.
- **Teen INC (Innovate & Create):** 4 events, 21 people total
Teens (ages 12-17) learn about the Library's Makerspace technologies and create something new. Alternating week of technology and crafts/art. Heavy IFPL staff involvement.

Total events: 54

Total people: 187

Upcoming programs

- Brickfast Club: Fridays, 5pm
- Coding for Kids: Tuesdays-Saturdays, 4pm
- Tech for Teens: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30pm; Saturdays, 11am
- Teen INC: Fridays, 11am

Item usage

- 3D printers: 113 people
- Audio room: 9 people
- Cricut: 8 people
- Glowforge: 31 people
- Sewing machines: 2 people

Item certifications

- Audio room: 2 people; total: 43
- Cricut: 3 people; total: 28
- Filament 3D printer: 11 people; total: 141
- Glowforge: 4 people; total: 63
- Resin 3D printer: 1 person; total: 22
- Sewing machines: 2 people; total: 9

Community Engagement and Outreach

Events

- North Boulevard Relief Society, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
 - Beth covered library resources, plus Libby and online databases to help kids with homework.
- United Way Mobile Resource Center event at Fox Hollow Elementary
 - Beth visited with students and their families and talked about the benefits of having a library card.

Total events: 2

Total people: 275

Meetings

- Beth has become a member of the Rotary Club of Idaho Falls. She's meeting new people and collaborating on things the library and other agencies can do.
- Beth remains a member of the Kiwanis Club of Idaho Falls. She is currently serving as Past President. Again, because of these meetings, she's getting good contacts of people who can help extend the library's mission. Recently, she read with other member of Kiwanis to the two local Head Starts and gave away books purchased by Kiwanis to the children.
- Beth, Robert, and Aleisha met with Jeff Carr and Chloe Douchette from the Museum of Idaho. They discussed ways they could partner and increase attendance for both locations.

Pictures for Community Engagement events, page 16



Figure 18 / Beth at Fox Hollow Elementary for a United Way Mobile Resource Center event, Sep 12, 2024



Figure 19 / Beth reading to kids at Head Start for Kiwanis, October 3, 2024

Staff

Staffing

- Kira Epperson's last day was August 31.
- Sami Viehweg has gone down from 40 hours to 30.
- We are currently looking to hire a part-time staff member to cover some of those missing hours.

Meetings

- Meetings were held on September 9, September 23, and October 7. Topics covered were Digital Sanborn Maps, programs, and better ways to serve our patrons.

Professional development included:

- *Atomic Habits: An Easy and Proven Way to Build Good Habits and Break Bad Ones* by James Clear
- *United Voices: Awakening Cultural Understandings of Idaho's Five Tribes*
- Indigenous Idaho class series provided by Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL)
- LITT Chats provided by ICfL
- Check-in with ICfL regarding our Early Learning Center that we have Eastern Idaho Public Health
- Director 101 class series provided by ICfL

Miscellaneous

Our staff is awesome! – Recent stories from staff members

- Rebecca, 8/31: A young guy at the self checkout today realizing it checks out a whole stack at once "what kind of magic voodoo is this? When did the library get so sophisticated? This is awesome!"
- Rebecca, 9/6: Jacqueline Howe was soooo excited that she won a summer reading prize. She won the prize that included a winter reading soup mug, and she is so happy to have another one of those. She said she is going to brag to all her friends about winning. She had me take a picture of her with her prize bag so she can send it to them 😊
- Shaie, 9/9: I was just shelving holds and a lady came to grab hers and she said, "Thank you so much for doing this. It's awesome." 😊 So hey guys some people do pick up their holds and do appreciate it!
- Shaie, 9/23: A little girl just asked me if I could give her some luck because one time a librarian on the children's floor gave her some librarian luck

and she won a drawing. So I gave her some librarian luck via the finger-boop of luckiness.

- Sami, 9/24: A teen was picking up her holds while I was shelving and her friend turned to me and said, "Oh man! I wish I could still come to this library, but my mom made us move to Shelley. This is the MOST MAGICAL place in the world!"
- Sami, 9/24: OMG also the cutest teen came in ECSTATIC that her mom paid for a library card for her for her birthday. She was literally jumping up and down with her card
- Sami, 9/25: A lady was so excited that I taught her how to print that she high fived me and said I made her entire day. Lol
- Melissa, 9/26: Had a mom come up to the 3rd floor and I asked if her little girl had a card and explained the situation. Mom was super understanding and was more excited about getting her kid signed up for her first library card than upset. "I thought she was too little! You mean she can have a card now?!" Afterward, she took pictures of her little girl on the ramp holding her new fishy library card.
- Rebecca, 9/28: I just had a mom with a young child get a library card, and say she is only doing this for her son because she has dyslexia and doesn't like reading. I asked if she has tried audiobooks, and she was interested so I helped her set up Libby 😊
- Beth, 10/4: A new patron just checked out a Trick or Treat book. He didn't want to know the title, and was excited to take it home to open it up. He did a little shimmy-dance-like-thing in excitement while walking down the ramp and it was just so cute!
- Shaie, 10/7: A 11-ish-year-old boy wearing a Hufflepuff scarf came up the ramp and said, "Wow! I love your Halloween decorations!"
- Melissa, 10/8: Had a patron come up to me wanting to let me know what his daughter said: "Daddy, a real pretty lady at the library helped me find a book." "What's the book about?" "*snort* I don't know. I have to read it first. But she's my hero."
- Rebecca, 10/11: I had a patron who talked about how she loved the Never Too Late drawing class and would love to do something like that again. She wants to request that we continue to have drawing/art classes.
- Rebecca, 10/17: I had a mom returning \$500 worth of lost books across 3 cards, and she had each of her children apologize to me for keeping the books so long, and the kids were being polite and bowing to me, and it was kind of cute. I made sure to thank each of them for bringing their books back