

Community Engagement Adult, Teen, and Makerspace Programs Report for September 2026

Information gathered from June 1 – August 29, 2026

Adult & Teen Programs

- **4-H:** 5 events, 30 people
- **Author Visit:** 1 event, 4 people, author: RD Wolfe
- **Bleed & Read (with the American Red Cross):** 1 event, 45 people
- **Booked at Noon Book Club:** 3 events, 22 people
- **Chapter 2 Book Club:** 3 events, 32 people
- **Chess Club Wednesdays:** 13 events, 18 people
- **Chess Club Saturdays:** 12 events, 82 people
- **Crazy Crafters:** 13 events, 231 people
- **Cuéntame un libro:** 1 event, 4 people
- **D&D Days (Dungeons & Dragons):** 12 events, 204 people
- **Game Night:** 13 events, 129 people
- **Journal Jam:** 2 events, 4 people
- **Literary Luck:** 2 months, 318 entries
- **LybraryWyrms:** 12 events, 126 people
- **Mental Wellness Series (with National Alliance on Mental Illness Upper Valley Idaho):** 3 events, 30 people
- **Narcans:** 1 event, 2 people
- **Nerd Gym:** 1 event, 2 people
- **Paper Arts:** 3 events, 71 people
- **Survivors of Suicide Loss Support Group (with Community Suicide Prevention):** 2 events, 18 people
- **Teen Camp:** 8 total events, 259 total people
 - **Teen Summer Writing Camp:** 4 days, 95 people
 - **IFPL Players Summer Theater Camp:** 4 days, 164 people
- **Write Over Here:** 13 events, 112 people
- **Write Over Here for Teens:** 12 events, 70 people
- **Special programs/events**
 - **Miss Idaho Community Service Initiative Open House:** 1 event, 200 people
 - Partnered with Miss Idaho program for this year's contestants to present to the public how they help their community.

- **Patriotic Praises:** 1 event, 22 people
 - Partnered with Daughters of the American Revolution Fort Hall Chapter to create thank-you cards for local veterans, then partnered with TRIO to have the cards delivered.
- **Midsummer Eve's Ball:** 1 event, 80 people
 - Staff-run extravaganza, with dancing, raffles, a special drink elixir/mocktail, and lots of fun. Partnered with Dragon Bowls food truck and Jocelyn's Brownies, which sold food to interested partygoers.
- **Reach Out, Stay Strong, Essentials (ROSE):** 1 event, 28 people
 - Partnered with Eastern Idaho Public Health and a group of master's degree students to provide a workshop that helped expectant mothers build skills, confidence, and support.

Total events: 143; **total people:** 2,143

Upcoming special events and programs

- **League of Women Voters / Voting in the USA display:** August 24-November 7
- **American Conversation Project:** September 1 and 9
 - Stipend received from American Conversation Project
- **Wildfire Smoke Resources display:** September 8-October 10
 - In partnership with Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and Idaho Department of Health & Welfare
- **The Moments that Made US display:** September 8
 - In partnership with the Daughters of the American Revolution Fort Hall Chapter, Idaho State Archives, and several other state archives
- **Austen Ball:** September 22 (instruction days on September 8 and 15)
- **Never Too Late:** September 17-October 22
 - Grant received from Idaho Commission for Libraries; in partnership with The Art Museum of Eastern Idaho and Alzheimer's Association Greater Idaho Chapter
- **Empowered Caregiver series:** September 23-October 14
 - In partnership with Alzheimer's Association Greater Idaho Chapter
- **Trick or Treat:** October 1-31
- **Voices for Human Rights Presents: Salvaged Pages:** November 4
 - In partnership with Voices for Human Rights
- **Adoption display:** November 2-30
 - In partnership with Fostering Idaho
- **Recycle Your eWaste:** November 14
 - In partnership with eCyclers of Idaho
- **Winter Reading:** November 30-February 27
- **Bleed & Read:** November 30
 - In partnership with the American Red Cross

Notes or changes to existing programs

- We were slated to start a new English as a Second Language program with one of our volunteers in September. Unfortunately, due to changes to her schedule, she will not be able to provide that program, so it is on hold until another volunteer can be found.
- Nerd Gym was on hiatus during the summer, due to the volunteers' busy schedules. There is not a restart date for it yet.

Adult & Teen Tours

- **Village Improvement Society:** 1 event, 15 people
 - Participants of this group were shown the Idaho Room; led by Jes.
- **Sister Cities Youth Delegation:** 1 events, 55 people
 - Again led by Jes, this group was shown Sister Cities artifacts.

Photos from recent programs and events, pages 3 – 8



Figure 1 / Miss Idaho Community Service Initiative Open House; June 11, 2026



Figure 2 / Patriotic Praises; June 13, 2026

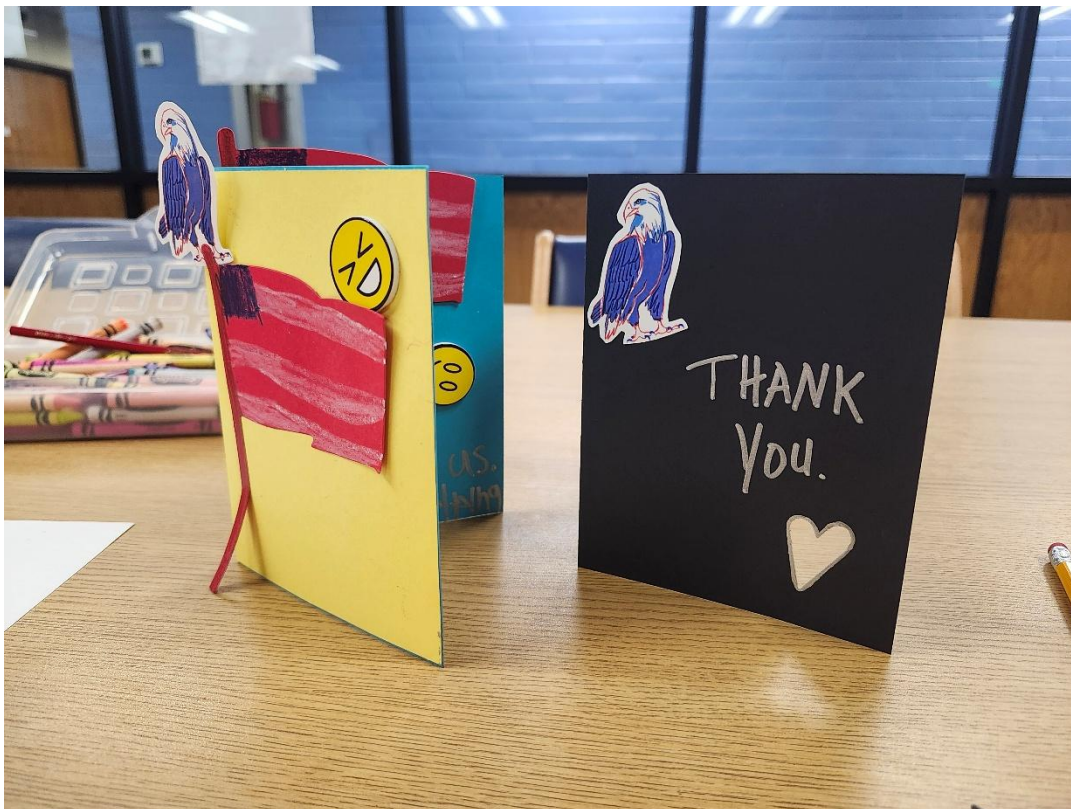


Figure 3 / Patriotic Praises; June 13, 2026



Figure 4 / Midsummer Eve's Ball; July 24, 2026



Figure 5 / Midsummer Eve's Ball; July 24, 2026



Figure 6 / Midsummer Eve's Ball; July 24, 2026; photo credit: Crystal Sakizzie



Figure 7 / IFPL Players Summer Theater Camp; July 27-30, 2026



Figure 8 / IFPL Players Summer Theater Camp; July 27-30, 2026



Figure 9 / IFPL Players Summer Theater Camp; July 27-30, 2026



Figure 10 / IFPL Players Summer Theater Camp; July 27-30, 2026; a teen patron was so happy over the camp that they painted this for IFPL staff as a thank-you.

Adult & Teen Reading Programs

Extreme Book Nerd signups (total since January 6):

- Adult Extreme Book Nerd: 366 registered; 42 completed (11%)
- Teen Extreme Book Nerd: 62 registered, 9 completed (15%)
- Book Nerd Your Way (adult): 585 registered, 89 completed (15%)
- Book Nerd Your Way (teen): 107 registered, 24 completed (22%)
- Total registered: 1,120; total completed: 164 (15%)

Turn the Page Reading Program for Teens (total since January 26):

- Registered: 50; Prizes earned: 41

Summer Reading signups (total since Jun 1):

- Adult: 1,152 registered
 - 7.2% increase from 2025 (added 77 people)
- Teen: 598 registered
 - 12% increase from 2025 (added 64 people)
- Prizes given out: 6,488
 - 2,103 of that were books or vouchers to redeem a book from the Friends of the Library of Idaho Falls!

Makerspace Programs

Programs

- **Brickfast Club:** 9 events, 74 people
- **Coding for Kids:** 51 events, 122 people
- **Tech for Teens:** 35 events, 48 people
- **Teen INC (Innovate & Create):** 7 events, 21 people

Total events: 102; **total people:** 265

Notes or changes to existing programs

- Teen, INC (Innovate 'N' Create) has been suspended until a better time can be found to offer it. Attendance was not where we wanted it to be to justify the amount of prep time that went into the program.

Community Engagement and Outreach

Events

- **My First Books with Migrant Head Start:** 1 event, 58 people
 - We received a grant from Idaho Commission for Libraries to give children at the Migrant Head Start on G Street three books, and this was the first visit. More visits are scheduled for September and October.
- **United Way Concert Series:** 1 event, 100 people
 - At the last concert of their series, United Way invited community partners to talk to concertgoers about what services they provide. I talked to patrons about getting library cards and all the wonderful services and programs we have available.

Total events: 2; **Total people:** 158

Partnerships

- **The Art Museum of Eastern Idaho (TAM) passes**
 - We now have passes that patrons can check out to visit TAM! Passes are valid for two days.
- **Radon Test Kits from Idaho Department of Environmental Quality**
 - We're working with this agency to provide Radon Testing Kits for patrons to check out; anticipated to be available in September.

Trainings, Meetings, Promotion, and Out in the Community

- **Trainings**
 - Workday: with the City of Idaho Falls
 - Library of Things: with Idaho Commission for Libraries
 - Teens: with Idaho Commission for Libraries
- **Planning meetings for events and programs**
 - **Never Too Late:** with The Art Museum of Eastern Idaho and Alzheimer's Association Greater Idaho Chapter.
 - **Mental Wellness Series:** with National Alliance on Mental Illness Upper Valley Idaho.
 - **Voices for Human Rights:** for upcoming programming this fall and next spring.
- **Promotion**
 - Attended Idaho Falls Downtown Development Corporation ribbon cutting.
 - Discussed Extreme Book Nerd program over video chat with East Bonner Library staff.
 - Talked with District 91 employees at Back to School nights about my availability to present information about library services in their classrooms.
 - Patriotic Praises was included in a newsletter sent out from the Idaho State Treasurer's Office to America 250 in Idaho Ambassadors (see picture on next page).
- **Kiwanis Club of Idaho Falls**
 - Assisted with Hope of America program by visiting schools to honor sixth graders and setting up the recognition event.
 - Represented Kiwanis at Community Youth in Action event.
- **Rotary Club of Idaho Falls**
 - Assisted with the yearly Duck Race by selling ducks at the farmers market and providing assistance on race day.
 - Served as Sergeant at Arms for August meetings.



Ambassador Call-to-Action

June 12, 2026

Ambassadors - this month we're asking you to participate when you can in the activities listed below and help to spread the word to your family and friends about America250 in Idaho.



What is Flag Day?

Elizabeth Griscom, a Philadelphia flag maker who was also known as Betsy Ross, sewed the first "official" flag in June 1776. George Washington, Robert Morris, and George Ross came to Betsy

Ross's house to discuss the design of a national flag. The original design had six-sided stars representing the thirteen colonies on a field of blue with red and white stripes. She suggested a five-pointed star. The three men, amazed at how quickly she could cut the five-pointed stars, assigned her with the task of sewing the flag. On June 14, 1777, the Second Continental Congress passed the first Flag

UPCOMING EVENTS:



Patriotic Praises

June 13, 2026
10:30 am – 1:00 pm
Idaho Falls Public Library
457 W Broadway St, Idaho Falls, ID 83402

Let local veterans know how much you appreciate them by creating thank-you cards! Supplies will be provided.
<https://america250.idaho.gov/events-calendar/patriotic-praises/>

Figure 11 / From a newsletter from the Idaho State Treasurer's Office; June 12, 2026

Happy Patron Stories

- Had a teenager up here who is getting ready to leave for college. He was picking out his level 3 prize and he was saying he wanted to get the spoon because it would be useful to have at college. His sister was teasing him about it not being a "cool" prize, but when I handed it to him I swear he got emotional. He said it was so perfect and exactly what he needed. It was cool to be able to give that to him. – Ashley, 7/16/26
- About IFPL Players Summer Theater Camp: It was a great success. We had 25 kids attend all 4 sessions, and had over 33 most of the days. Everyone had so much fun. 22 kids told me they hope we do this again, and we had several thank us for doing this and cry tears letting us know they finally feel seen and like they have a community of like-minded peers. – Sami, 7/31/26
- I checked out my first museum pass today! They were so excited to go...they have never been to the Art Museum and they are excited to use the pass. – Lisha, 8/8/26