

Youth Services at a Glance

November & December 2024

Teacher Packs- 6

Youth Programs- 48

Youth Attendance- 1214

General Interest Programs- 17

General Interest Attendance- 655

Program Highlights

November is Native American Heritage Month. To educate and inspire the community, our Homeschool Heroes program invited Eliza Skenadore, a member of the Oneida Tribe, to present to the public during class time. The presentation, "Preserving Culture Through Art" provided an immersive experience into Indigenous art, the value and significance each piece holds, and the importance of preserving cultural knowledge. Available refreshments included traditional corn soup and strawberry drink.

It wouldn't be November at the library without Dinovember activities! This year we included a few extra passive activities to get the community excited about dinosaurs. In the youth department, patrons could take the dinosaur quiz to find out what kind of dinosaur they would be and add a red dot to the matching area on the answer sheet. Our Dinovember activity sheet got patrons asking questions and reading books for a mini terrarium grand prize. The biggest attraction was the dinosaur egg. Patrons were invited to take a guess and enter their name and phone number for a chance to win what was inside. Best guess? A stuffed dinosaur. Clever Kaukauna!



We held our first interactive Polar Express Movie Night in December. Our on-staff conductor punched tickets and attendees cozied up with their

blankets in the conference room. Patrons arrived in pajamas and their tickets were punched by our on-staff conductor before they cozied up with blankets in the conference room. A hot cocoa cart was brought in to coincide with the movie and attendees went home with sleigh bells and smiles.



The library had a special guest reader before the holidays. Children's author Christina Bryner read her book, *A Filipino Christmas Wish* for the Perfect Preschoolers Storytime. The group spent time sharing their family traditions before our friends were invited to craft paper parols; a star-shaped Christmas lantern.

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This was the winter of firsts for our library. We held a Noon Year's Eve Party to celebrate the new year. There was no shortage of music and dancing. Patrons could snap a photo at the 2025 photo wall. To add to the experience we ran the bubble machine and crafted a balloon drop. There was a craft station to make a festive noisemaker and a countdown to the big moment. This program is sure to make an appearance every year!



Community Outreach & Collaboration

The last two months of 2024 brought the magic of City Hall and Kaukauna Utilities to life for our Homeschool Heroes families. Mayor Tony Penterman led the group on a tour of city hall, ending in council chambers for questions. Kaukauna Utilities went behind the scenes, giving the group a look at the switchboard and the giant turbines. Providing this type of experience helps to ignite and inspire our youngest community members to

dream big. Families are encouraged to ask questions and continue the exploration at home, using materials found at the library.

Survival Skills at 1000 Islands Environmental Center wrapped up sessions in December with scout leader Steve Martin and his knot-tying class. Basic knots were demonstrated and their uses were detailed as attendees tried to complete each knot. The monkey fist is a fan favorite, although it takes more than a few tries to master it!

