

Youth Services at a Glance

June & July 2023

Teacher Packs- 3

Youth Programs- 38

Youth Attendance- 1363

General Interest Programs- 25

General Interest Attendance- 1174

Program Highlights

Geoff Akins brought the magic of bubbles to Kaukauna in June with the famous Bubble Wonders program. We saw 403 attendees become dazzled with bubbles of all shapes and sizes, and a few lucky patrons were selected to be inside a bubble!



Figure 1. A lucky boy inside a bubble at Bubble

Wonders

We could not call summer a wrap without one of Miss Rachel's famous dance parties! A nice round number of 100 patrons attended one of two Disney Dance Parties in June, showing off their best dancing feet in the cutest Disney attire.

Elementary Explorers brought a dozen eager school-age kiddos to experiment with Miss Kim and keep the love of learning burning bright this summer! Perhaps a day camp is in our future next summer!

This summer the library offered two separate Teen Tie Dye opportunities, bringing in 46 teens to create their own cloth masterpieces. Our conference room carpet may never be the same!

Rocks Rock continues to intrigue young minds and drive interest in paleontology. After learning about rocks, minerals, and fossils, participants were able to create their own using air dry clay and Plaster of Paris.

Garden programs have been a huge hit this summer, keeping participation numbers at an average of 50. Miss Donna led our Storytimes in the Garden entertaining patrons with her ukulele skills, while Miss Mary helped patrons of all ages to design unique summer creations during Art in the Garden.

This year, Kaukauna Public Library went all out and hosted a double feature for Family Movie Night in July. A whopping 500 attendees grabbed their blankets and chairs to join FunFlicks on the lawn. There was an offering of themed crafts, balloon creations, face painting, and even a small petting zoo!



Figure 2. A picture of the attendees ready for the show to start during Family Movie Night.

Collaboration Fun

There have been several fantastic collaboration programs and events this summer! Kaukauna Public Library welcomed back Sarah from Piggly Wiggly for Decorating Desserts. Using pre-made sugar cookies, 22 participants had the option to follow the demonstration and decorate their cookies into baseballs or flowers.

The library loves to collaborate with 100 Islands and we had a few fabulous programs this summer! In June, we hosted Birding Basics, with 18 attendees learning about the variety of native birds in Wisconsin. The Evening Hike and Campfire in July was held at the nature center, drawing 150 area residents to take guided hikes with Debra Nowak and roast marshmallows with Mr. Gavin.

Touch a Truck was a massive hit with the community! The event was held at Hydro Park and we had 12 area businesses that participated this year, including a 4-H petting zoo and bikes from Recyclist. Over 500 attendees ventured out to explore the variety of vehicles. Next year, volunteers are necessary as we plan for more!

Kaukauna Public Library and Pagoni's teamed up for the Pizza Tasting program this July. Teens were invited to try each of the 5 pizzas generously donated by Pagoni's and determined the favorite to be pepperoni! Special thanks to Ernesto for the extra fun with the donated \$10 certificates!

Continuing Education

During June and July, I focused on teen program development. I watched webinars and prerecorded conferences. What components could we add or take away from what we currently offer to increase engagement? Are there any areas of interest that we have not implemented in a program? I found myself down the teen rabbit hole, following various libraries, blogs, and

newsletters. Then, I saw the consistency, one word continually appearing. Teens want ownership, and snacks.

In evaluating our teen space and current teen program offerings, it seems we put too much stress on participation. This is where the idea for “Teen Bins” was born! Curated specifically for teens, and only available during teen programs or as a drop in activity in the teen lab, these bins will give the sense of something coveted. I am optimistic this year in my effort to collaborate with the high school and form a Teen Advisory Group, with the goal of having teens develop and promote their own ideas at Kaukauna Public Library. The most important element, however, is snacks.