

Youth Services at a Glance

June & July 2026

Teacher Packs- 0

Youth Programs- 36

Youth Attendance- 935

General Interest Programs- 39

General Interest Attendance- 4179

Youth Highlights

Summer Library Program

This summer the theme was “Unearth a Story”, and our readers had a blast digging in! Our program began June 8th with a new format aimed to fit the mission to encourage reading all summer and reduce the dreaded summer slide. All readers had several chances to enter for the end of summer grand prizes and earn books, trinkets, and coupons along the way! One big change was the ability for participants to complete the program as many times as they wanted. We also reduced the amount of plastic waste but kept all the excitement! Library staff and patrons of all ages enjoyed the changes and found the program easier to navigate and participate in.

The Summer Library Program is also a way to bring the theme to life through events, programs, and decorations. Youth staff worked hard creating immersive decorations and stations throughout the library including several passive options- an I spy board, a spot the difference challenge, and a scavenger hunt. Each passive station was refreshed each month, encouraging patrons to return to see what’s new.



Above: SLP decorations throughout the library this summer

Adventures in the Park

Summer means storytime at the park! This year Miss Kim rotated between Riverside Park and Horseshoe Park to bring books and nature together. The final Adventure is a book fair with crafts, activities, literary themed prizes, and of course, free books! Each attendee is given tickets to stop at the stations to collect their goodies, with a few spots just for fun. This year we had over 60 participants! We saw an increase in older siblings and are looking forward to adding chapter book options next year.

Below: Pictures from the J&R Aquatic Animal Rescue program

J&R Aquatic Animal Rescue

Amphibians, reptiles, and a chicken named Nugget?! The fabulous rescue returned to the library this summer with some unexpected guests to fit the summer theme and bring the wonders of animal adaptations to life with their Prehistoric Pets educational presentation. Did you know prehistoric crocodiles had teeth the size of bananas? Attendees were all ears for both presentations, eager to see what animal would make their appearance next. The crowd favorite was a bearded dragon named Frank, coming in close second was a ball python.



Monday Crafts

Throughout the summer the library features self-led drop-in crafts and activities in the youth department on Mondays. These are typically geared towards preschool aged patrons and are related to the summer theme. This year, we added a special Monday morning craft program held in the conference room, aimed at engaging older children but also fun for teens and adults who attend. Library staff Madeline and Kim led the programs, and participants were able to join at any time during the event. Clay Ammonites was the most popular Monday morning program with 45 patrons spiraling and coloring clay.

Below: Pictures from the ammonite spiral Monday craft



Touch-a-Truck

The annual Touch-a-Truck event had a new location this summer at the Kaukauna High School! This change provided much needed parking and space for additional vehicles and booths. An unexpected perk was the increase in school-age and teen attendance as they finished their morning activities at the high school and joined in the fun before heading home.

Unfortunately, the helicopter was unable to fly due to weather, but the Outagamie County Sheriff's Office brought their BearCat, Dawes Rigging and Milis Flatwork were able to fully extend their outriggers and booms, The Cool Bus brought the sweet treats, and Piggie and Elephant made a special appearance for pictures!

Right: Mo Willems characters Piggie and Elephant ready for pictures



Outdoor Movie Night

A summer delight returned to the Kaukauna Public Library with a new twist! The Outdoor Movie Night is held in the parking lot each year with several pre-show activities. This year, we kept the parking lot reserved for seating so patrons could grab their spot and moved all the activities to the other end for a block party feel! Pre-show activities included a bounce house, chalk art station, bubble pool with giant wands, and an assortment of large games. Families took the time to gather in the shade and enjoy the fun before heading over to watch the movie and enjoy snacks from Carnival Time.



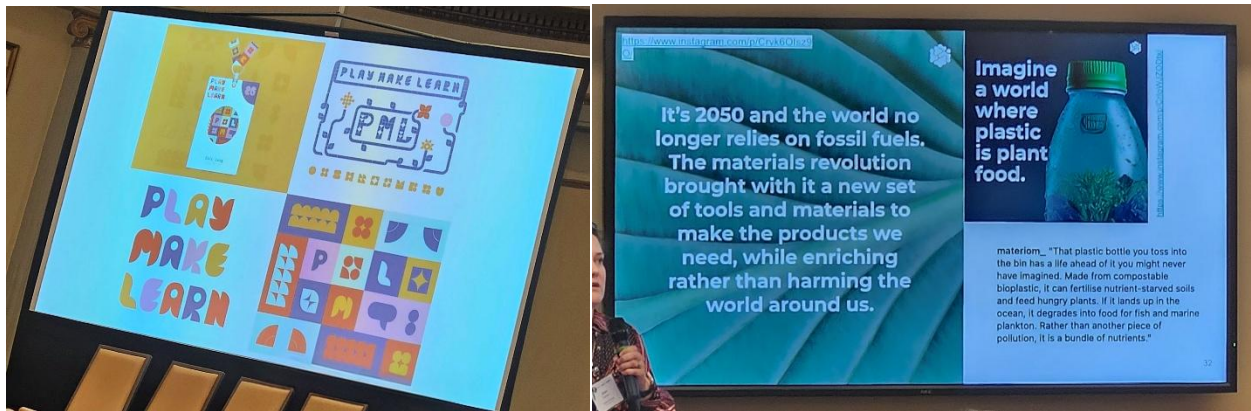
Clockwise from left: Photos from Outdoor Movie Night



Continuing Education

Play Make Learn Conference

Youth Services Librarian Sarah attended the annual Play Make Learn Conference in Madison this July and came back with all the great ideas! The theme this year was Scrappiness and highlighted the importance of reducing waste and reusing materials with a focus on makerspaces and intergenerational programming. Several presentations featured hands-on experimentation, with one session using biomaterials to create usable bio-based materials such as foam and plastic, encouraging sustainability. A huge takeaway was how to recycle PLA 3D printer waste using epoxy and how we can take scraps and stream them back into learning environments in a safe and ethical manner. As always, this conference is an excellent opportunity to gather with like-minded individuals and share ideas, network, plan, and refresh current community programs.



Above: Snapshots from the Play Make Learn Conference