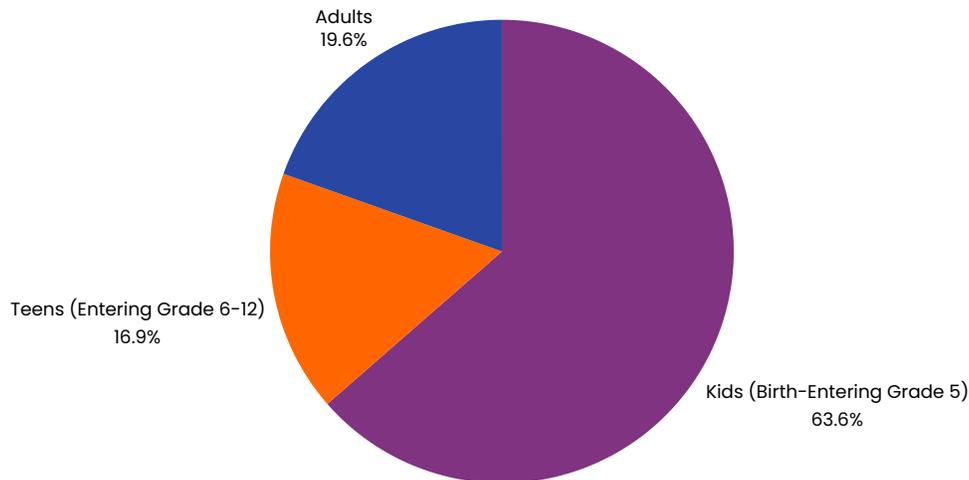




SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2024

EXPLORE NEW WORLDS

Summer Reading blasted off on Thursday, June 6. Readers were invited to complete a series of activities, such as reading outside or checking out a cookbook, or simply track when they read or listened to a book for 20 minutes.



In total, 1043 people registered for the program, 663 kids, 176 teens, and 204 adults. This was about an 11% decrease from 2023, which saw 1180 people register (781 kids, 164 teens, and 235 adults).

EVENTS

Events included a kickoff concert with Justin Roberts, Worm Races at Bridge Square, a visit from the International Owl Center, Frankentoys, and many storytimes.

PAGES

Pages are youth volunteers who have completed 5th-8th grade. Pages assist with summer reading registration, library work like shelf maintenance and weeding, and participate in weekly team building activities. We accepted 14 Pages into the program in 2024. This year, we worked with a local resident, Steve Carras, who shared his extensive HR experience with the tweens and teens through a resume workshop. Pages gained useful tips on how their Paging experience might be relevant when applying for other jobs, volunteer opportunities, or scholarships in the future.

In addition, Pages also worked on planning teams for events they brainstormed as a group. Working with staff and interns, they were integral to nearly all aspects of planning and hosting three events: a Star Wars party (complete with pool noodle lightsaber duels), a mini skateboard park event, and a Harry Potter-themed escape room.



OUTREACH WITH NPS

We once again partnered with Northfield Public Schools to include Summer PLUS and Summer BLAST participants in the Summer Reading Challenge. All of the students in the Summer PLUS program completed the Kids program. For four weeks in a row, they nearly emptied the Bookmobile of children's books. We are hoping to develop a better process for stocking the Bookmobile for summer outreach next summer.

Summer BLAST students also had the opportunity to visit the Bookmobile each week, but we did not have many sign up for the Teen program. We would like to work with school staff to incorporate the library visits into their schedule in a better way in 2025.

DATA-DRIVEN IMPROVEMENTS

In line with our sustainability values, we were curious how many consumable supplies we produce in the course of one summer. This year, we printed 1476 "maps," the brochures we hand out to participants to track their activities/reading, and created 1966 buttons. We also counted how many supplies we had left over at the end of the summer so we can better plan for next year. Staff suggested we count coloring sheets in 2025 so we can account for that in our budgeting as well.

Based on our data, we are already planning to design an alternative tracking log for repeat finishers that doesn't take as much paper or ink to print.



Thank you to 2024 Summer Reading Challenge planning committee: Cat, Becky, Francisco, Alexis, and Em