

RAPID CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

610 QUINCY ST. | RAPID CITY, SD 57701 | 605.394.6139

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Date: October 2024
 To: RCPL Board of Trustees
 From: Aly Quinn, Events Coordinator
 Re: Events Review

	Number of Q3 2024 events	Total Q3 2024 attendance	Average attendance per event (rounded)
Children (Pre-K)	56	2,266	40
Children (K-12)	39	1,291	33
Teens (13-17)	17	124	7
Adults (18+)	28	455	16
General Events	7	184	26
Totals	147	4,320	

- **General Events**
 - Events in conjunction with the *SPARK! Places of Innovation* exhibit highlighted local innovation related to culture, art, history, and technology. The library collaborated with Friends of the Children - He Sapa, which runs a unique Lakota mentoring program for kids; the Care Campus, known for offering safe resources to our community; and Black Hills Works, which supports adults of all abilities. Digitization and makerspace workshops demonstrated innovation within the library.
 - The Summer Reading Challenge were 152 adults (32% less than in 2023), 137 (+47%) teens, and 967 (+11%) children. New promotional concepts for adults will be used next year. Teen and children’s participation increased due to consistent outreach to local schools.

- **Adult Events**
 - New events included a puzzle swap, a puzzle competition, a Rally-week Chautauqua celebrating the 50th anniversary of *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, and a Voter Registration Drive. Rally visitors expressed gratitude for the library’s motorcycle-themed events.
 - The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Awareness series concluded with a presentation from Remembering the Children. Attendees appreciated the opportunity to learn about local efforts addressing this important issue. We plan to maintain partnerships with the relevant organizations to provide information throughout the year.

- **Teen Events**
 - Monthly outreach to high schools resumed with the new school year. Our teen librarian will continue visits throughout the school year to promote library resources and events. Teen’s event participation has increased significantly since this type of outreach began.

- We built a strong connection with the teens at Wellfully over the summer, all of whom took part in our Summer Reading Challenge and enthusiastically shared their appreciation for the library and the bookmobile during its visits.
- We launched a new monthly event for teens called *Tinker Teens*, which emphasizes skills that can be developed using Makerspace equipment. The monthly event is held in the Makerspace in order to build familiarity with the resources offered there.

- Children's Events
 - A staff member was promoted to the Youth Education Library Associate II position. She has begun planning new 2025 events geared towards upper elementary kids.
 - Summer Shows were held on alternating Thursdays and Saturdays in order to accommodate families with working parents. Despite public requests for Saturday shows, Saturday attendance was consistently lower than on Thursdays. Given this result, we will return to Thursday-only shows next summer to ensure consistency and possibly improve attendance.

- Projects for Q4 2024:
 - A four-week writing workshop for youth is scheduled in November in celebration of National Novel Writing Month.
 - Preparations are underway for the Winter Reading Challenge, which will celebrate Smokey Bear's 50th birthday. This initiative aims to encourage reading and foster a love for outdoor adventures.