



2022 Ohio Summer Library Program: Preliminary Report

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"While this wasn't a complete return-to-normal summer, we were so pleased to be able to offer a Summer Reading Program experience that felt much more robust... and to receive such a positive and strong response from our community."

Morgan Hidy, Worthington Libraries

While the lingering effects of the pandemic apparently continued to impact turnout, summer library program (SLP) participation is trending upward statewide, and overall program and event attendance rose significantly from 2021. Library staff and patrons alike deeply appreciated the widespread return to in-person programming. Notably, many librarians reported a welcome sense of getting "back to normal."

224 Ohio public library systems responded to the 2022 Ohio SLP evaluation survey. All provided an SLP for children, 97% provided an SLP for teens, and 92% provided an SLP for adults.

In 2022, 312,354 people participated in an Ohio public library's summer library program, including 208,145 children, 34,223 teens, and 69,986 adults.

- ✓ This is an increase of 16% over total reported participation in 2021 (269,755).
- ✓ This is 65.4% of the total reported participation in 2019 (477,349).

"We were excited to get things a little back to normal this summer but found ourselves a little overwhelmed by the number of patrons that had the same idea!! It was an amazing summer and so good to see everyone old and new to us."

Lisa Crutchfield, St. Paris Public Library

"Our library had a fantastic overall experience this year with our SRP. The readers were engaged and excited about The Wave Foundation bringing sting rays for a visit, two magicians following the ocean theme, a chef that introduced us to cooking and eating octopus and squid, a conservationist that shared ancient fossils left in our area by flooding, artwork, exciting activities, and reading hundreds of books!"

Julie Carpenter, Union Township Public Library

In 2022, total reported attendance at Ohio library programs and events related to SLP (both in-person and online) was 709,187, including 476,269 attendees at children's programs, 43,018 at teen programs, 72,381 at adult programs, and 117,519 at all-ages programs.

- ✓ This is an increase of 30% over total reported program attendance in 2021 (543,549).
- ✓ This is 64% of the total reported program attendance in summer 2019 (1,110,010).

Most Ohio libraries used the Collaborative Summer Library Program's "Oceans of Possibilities" theme and developed programs about waterways, aquatic life, conservation, and other water-related topics, along with eye-catching decorations that transformed library buildings into fanciful undersea ecosystems. The full 2022 Ohio SLP evaluation report will feature a gallery of photos representing the creative programming and décor enjoyed by communities around the state.

"Patrons really appreciated our efforts this summer to provide snacks for the children. One parent thought that she would have to choose between food and gas for her car to get to work. She came into the library and was so appreciative when she saw that we were offering snacks for the children. It felt good to know we were doing our little bit to help."

Kim Bautz, Greene County Public Library

In addition to SLP, Ohio public libraries continued to support children and communities by distributing meals and snacks through the USDA Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or through locally funded (non-SFSP) arrangements. **Survey respondents reported a total of 133 library locations serving meals and/or snacks in summer 2022.**

Responses to the state SLP evaluation survey indicated that summer 2022 was significantly more busy, successful, and rewarding than the previous two summers. The full Ohio SLP Evaluation report, available in December, will include photos, stories, and analysis from librarians across Ohio.