COLOR OUR WORLD™

Crown Point Community Library

2025 SUMMER READING REPORT

Celebrating reading, art & creativity all summer long!

COLOR OUR WORLD™

A SUMMER OF CREATIVITY, READING, AND FUN

From June through July, the Crown Point Community Library's 2025 Summer Reading Program, **"Color Your World,"** brought our community together for a vibrant season of reading, learning, and connection. Designed for children, teens, and adults, the program offered hundreds of opportunities to explore creativity in all its forms—visual arts, music, literature, science, cooking, and nature.

Participants logged their reading to enter to win weekly prize drawings, free tickets to a Gary RailCats baseball game, and entries into the grand prize drawings. Students in grades K–8 competed for the coveted Summer Reading Championship Trophy, adding a bead to their school's jar for every hour they read.

Thanks to strong partnerships with local businesses, organizations, and civic groups, this year's program blended literacy, creativity, and community connection. By the end of July, hundreds of participants had read more, learned new skills, and strengthened community ties across Crown Point and Winfield—making summer at the library a highlight for many families year after year.

2025 Summer Reading SCHOOL COMPETITION

17,593 Hours Read!

Congratulations to winning school
SOLON ROBINSON ELEMENTARY
2,604 hours read!

How many hours did students from each school read?

Crown Point Christian School: 931
Crown Point High School: 856
Eisenhower Elementary: 989
Homeschool Grades K-2: 1,033 (+519 hours)**
Homeschool Grades 3-5: 656
Homeschool Grades 6-12: 747
Jerry Ross Elementary School: 1,142 (+457 hours)**
Lake Street Elementary: 2,380 (+535 hours)**
MacArthur Elementary: 628
Solon Robinson Elementary: 2,604 (+748 hours)**
St Mary's School: 1,196 (+492 hours)**
Taft Middle School: 786
Timothy Ball Elementary: 902
Trinity Lutheran: 346
Wheeler Middle School: 1,247 (+446 hours)**
Winfield Elementary: 1,084
Wonder Academy: 66

- **+3,500 Hours Over 2024!**
- **82% of schools increased their hours.**
- **Improving schools averaged +317 hours over 2024.**
- ****400+ hour increases: Homeschool K–2, Jerry Ross, Lake Street, Solon Robinson, St. Mary's, Wheeler.**

BIRTH-18

# of Participants - 2,353
(CP-1,822 | WB-531)

# of Hours Read - 17,593 ***(That's 1,055,580 minutes!)***
+3,500 Hours Over 2024!

# of Teen Volunteers - 24
199 service hours

# of Programs - 147
10,057 attendees

EVENT KICK-OFF & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

We kicked off Summer Reading with a lively Fun Fair at Bulldog Park, complete with bounce houses, games, face painting, and library card sign-ups. At the Winfield Branch, children navigated a life-sized Candy Land board, rolling oversized dice and traveling past Peppermint Forest, Gumdrop Mountain, and Chocolate Swamp before claiming a sweet treat at Candy Castle.

Throughout the summer, the library offered a full calendar of engaging activities. Weekly Storytime at Bulldog Park and Randolph Park brought books to life outdoors, often featuring guest readers from the community—including the mayor, police officers, firefighters, the mailman, and the school superintendent. StoryWalk® installations in Crown Point and Winfield encouraged families to enjoy the outdoors while reading seasonal picture books together.

Special programs offered hands-on learning, entertainment, and connection for all ages. Highlights included:

- **Family Engagement:** Outdoor Movie Nights at Bulldog Park, craft days, escape rooms, *Smarty Pants' Big Balloon Show*, the *WonderLab Museum of Science*, and *History Speaks: Civil War Stories* at Buckley Homestead.
- **Youth & Teen Enrichment:** Creative art workshops, STEAM challenges, cooking classes, scavenger hunts, and teen-exclusive activities like Splatter Paint, Black Light Art, and the Scavenger Hunt Around the Square.

Whizzy wheels, busy wheels,
roaring up the road wheels.
Wheels so fast. Wheels go slow.
Should what's coming if you know!

ADULTS

# of Participants - 448
CP-365 | WB-83

# of Programs - 107
2,440 attendees

# of Books Read - 1,986

- **Early Literacy:** Outdoor storytimes, baby art sessions, music and movement programs, and parent-child interactive activities.

- **Adult Learning & Wellness:** Art and craft workshops, yoga classes, trolley and walking tours of historic Crown Point, book clubs, and nature walks at Lemon Lake.

SUMMER READING IS FOR EVERYONE

From yoga in the library to guided nature walks at Lemon Lake County Park, adult participants explored creativity through hands-on classes like card making, collage, diamond painting, stained glass, and Warhol-inspired pop art. Food lovers enjoyed the Cookbook Club and Eat the Rainbow cooking sessions, while gardeners learned from Lake County Master Gardeners about container gardening and indoor plants.

History enthusiasts took part in free Trolley Tours of Crown Point's Historic District, exploring the city's heritage during 1.5–2 hour guided trips. Social activities, such as book clubs, movie screenings (complete with popcorn!), quilting, knitting, crochet groups, and card clubs, offered camaraderie, while workshops expanded knowledge.

With more than 250 total programs offered across all age groups, adult participation played a major role in making the 2025 Summer Reading Program a success—and proved that learning, creativity, and community engagement are truly lifelong pursuits.

COLOR OUR WORLD

TALKING
HISTOR

FACES OF THE
CIVIL WAR

Summer Reading Event
JUNE 1 - JULY 31, 2025 ALL AGES!

COMMUNITY

Outreach Events: 16 | Prize Donors: 22
Sponsors: 6 | Partnerships: 8

COMMUNITY PARTNERS & SPONSORS

The Crown Point Community Library is deeply grateful for the partnerships that made this year's program possible. Collaborations with local businesses, organizations, and civic groups—combined with the generous financial support of our sponsors—expanded our reach and enriched our offerings.

Together, we provided free or low-cost educational and cultural programs for residents of all ages, while also offering visibility and recognition to the local businesses and organizations that make these events possible.

In 2025, these valued partnerships supported 16 outreach events and 254 total programs, reaching more than 12,497 participants.

Community Partners:

- City of Crown Point,
- Town of Winfield,
- Lake County Fairgrounds,
- Lake County Parks & Recreation,
- Crown Point Community School Corporation,
- Lake County Historical Society and Museum,
- IUN Center for Urban and Regional Excellence (C.U.R.E.),
- NW Indiana Civil War Roundtable

Event Sponsors:

- Kappa Kappa Kappa,
- American Legion Auxiliary Unit 20,
- Psi Iota Xi-Beta Xi Chapter,
- Crown Point Lions Club,
- Friends of the Crown Point Library,
- Wonderlab Museum of Science

"Summer Reading is more than books—
it's building a community that learns and celebrates together."

Prize/Coupon Donors:

- McDonald's, Bellaboo's,
- Great Harvest Bread Company,
- Culver's, Albanese Candy Factory,
- Chick-fil-A,
- Wendy's,
- Gary RailCats Baseball Team,
- Jersey Mike's Subs,
- Cold Stone Creamery,
- Family Express,
- Parlour Donuts,
- Texas Roadhouse,
- Tomato Bar, Portillo's,
- Up Your Alley,
- Taco Bell,
- Sundae Funday,
- Julie Wendorf,
- Library Mini Golf

SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES

The Library believes in giving back to the community that supports us—especially our local businesses. Each year, funds for adult program prizes are used to purchase gift cards from locally owned shops, cafés, and restaurants. In 2025, gift cards were purchased from:

- Sip Coffee House
- Café Fresco
- Steamwhistle Coffee Roasters
- Refuge Coffee & Baking
- Twisted Sugar
- Sundae Funday
- Parlour Donuts
- Jilly's Boutique Café
- Square Roots
- Tavern on Main

By keeping these funds local, we reward our patrons while also investing in our community.

Community outreach sparks curiosity and spreads the word about services that many people may not realize are available.

10 YEARS OF OUTREACH: BEYOND LIBRARY WALLS

This year marks a milestone—10 years of library outreach. Since 2016, the Crown Point Community Library has worked to bring books, programs, and resources directly into the community.

Whether it's **Stories in the Park** or welcoming riders aboard a Trolley Tour, the Library has shown that literacy, learning, and community engagement don't stop at the library doors. These events, along with regular appearances at the Crown Point Farmer's Market, participation in Crossroads Chamber Corn Roast and Fourth of July Parade, are all part of a decade-long effort to meet people where they are.

Why Outreach Matters

In today's fast-paced world, libraries are reimagining their role—not just as a destination, but as a dynamic partner in community life.

Outreach is essential because it allows libraries to:

- Engage new audiences who may not be regular visitors to the library building.
- Break down barriers, including transportation, time constraints, or lack of awareness about available resources.
- Build relationships with residents, civic leaders, and local organizations in ways that strengthen the community as a whole.

These programs don't just bring the library into the community—they bring the community into the library. As a result, library visits continue to grow, with 2024 seeing more than 27,000 additional visits compared to 2023. Outreach sparks curiosity, encourages new library memberships, and spreads the word about services that many people may not realize are available —from digital books and research databases to early literacy programs and workforce support.

PULL!

CROWN POINT COMMUNITY
LIBRARY
CROWN POINT
WINFIELD

COLOR OUR WORLD
MOVIE NIGHTS

Play the
LUCKY DUCK GAME
FREE

CHICAGO TITLE

The Crown Point Community Library has made it a mission to extend its reach far beyond its physical walls—bringing books, programs, and resources directly into the heart of the community.

Crown Point Community
LIBRARY

Read
Discover
Connect

Main Library	Winfield Branch
122 N. Main Street Crown Point, IN 46307 (219) 663-0270	10771 Randolph Street Crown Point, IN 46307 (219) 662-4039

www.crownpointlibrary.org